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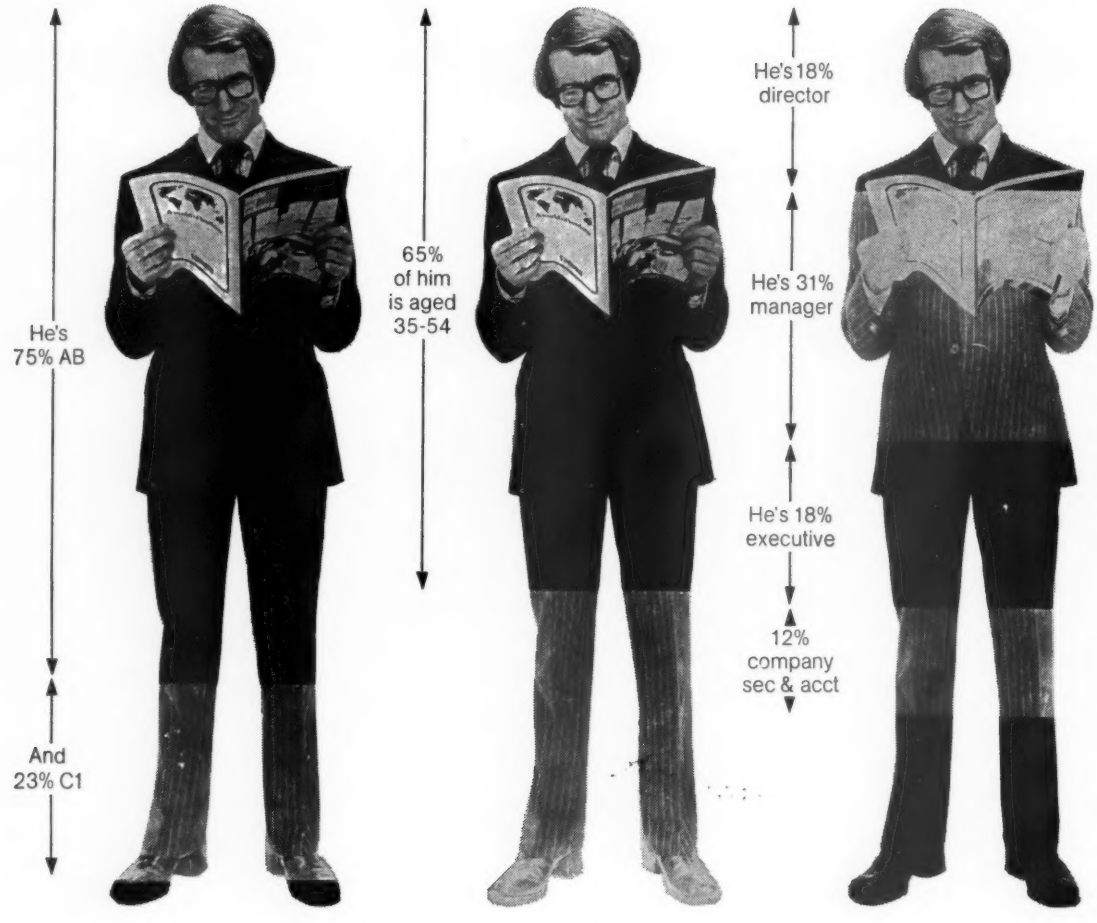

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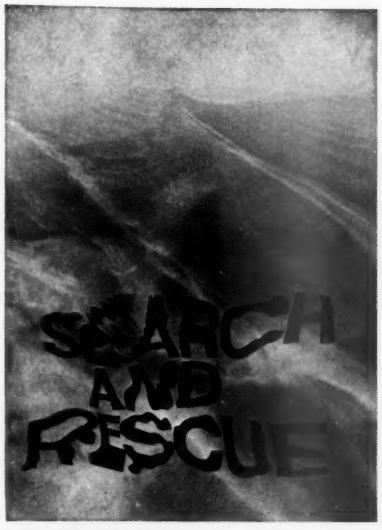

Improvements in Britain's marine Search and Rescue organisation are being planned to strengthen its capacity to handle the rapidly growing number of calls for assistance around our coasts. These improvements are described (page 270) by Stanley Clinton Davis, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Companies, Aviation and Shipping.

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Home News

Peter Shore on future civil aviation policy

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, on 29 July made the following statement to Parliament on future civil aviation policy in the light of the Policy Review which the Department of Trade has recently completed:

'Present policy largely reflects the recommendation of the Edwards Committee which reported in 1969, when it seemed likely that the UK airline industry would go on expanding fast throughout the 1970s. Since then, however, the airline industry worldwide has suffered a severe setback from the oil crisis and the consequent economic recession. Traffic carried by UK airlines fell by about 10 per cent in 1974 and British Caledonian Airways, the airline chosen by the previous Government to fulfil the "second force" role envisaged by Edwards, was obliged to make a substantial cutback in its operations and, in particular, to withdraw its scheduled services from the North Atlantic. Current forecasts indicate that there will be only a gradual recovery over the next few years in the UK airlines' main markets.

'It is against this background of a much less buoyant outlook for our industry that I have had to consider whether it remains in the national interest to continue with existing policy and especially to seek to have more than one UK airline serving any international long-haul route. In the present difficult conditions facing all airlines, aviation authorities throughout the world, including the USA, have been seeking to limit the competition faced by their main flag carriers. Thus, for the foreseeable future there will be hardly any routes on which we could hope to introduce a second British airline on terms which might enable us to increase significantly our share of the revenue. Moreover, British Caledonian's experience of the North Atlantic has clearly shown just how difficult it is for a second UK airline to compete profitably against established national flag-carriers. I have accordingly decided that in future it should be our general policy not to permit competition between UK airlines on long-haul scheduled services and therefore not to license more than one UK airline on any given long-haul route.

'I realise that this decision will rule out such possibility as there might have been of British Caledonian's returning to the New York and Los Angeles routes at some future date or mounting scheduled services in competition with British Airways on other long-haul routes to North America and Singapore for which it was granted licences in 1973. I am, however, convinced that such competition would bring no advantage to British aviation as a whole and that it would cause damage to British Airways without ensuring a profitable operation for BCAL or other British carriers.

'Nevertheless, I want BCAL to continue as a schedule carrier on major routes. I accept that BCAL has made a valuable contribution to the total UK aviation effort in the past few years, that it is valued by many consumers for providing a choice of British airlines on a number of domestic and European routes and that it is the main operator from Gatwick where traffic must be expanded progressively as part of our national airports strategy. I am anxious to retain BCAL as a second centre of airline expertise in the UK and to do what I can to help make more secure the jobs of the substantial number of workers who depend on BCAL for their livelihood.

'I have therefore decided that British Caledonian should have a sphere of influence for its long-haul scheduled activities. This will be based upon its West African and South American services and I envisage a limited exchange of routes with BA which would consolidate the two airlines' respective spheres of interest and be of benefit to both. I shall arrange further discussions with the airlines, with the aim of securing early agreement on an exchange that would be operationally sensible and reasonably balanced. Within its sphere, British Caledonian will continue to be the preferred airline. I believe that on this new basis British Caledonian's services will be complementary to those of British Airways, rather than competitive with them and that this will open the way for closer co-operation to the advantage of both airlines.

'British Caledonian will retain its present network of European and domestic services. It will also remain free to operate non-scheduled services throughout the world and on these services it will retain a measure of preference over all other British airlines except British Airways.

'I said earlier that I had decided it was no longer generally desirable to seek to designate more than one UK airline to serve any individual long-haul route. I have, in this context, looked carefully at the Skytrain service proposed by Laker Airways. I am satisfied that if it is allowed to go ahead in the conditions likely to prevail in the North Atlantic market for a considerable time ahead, it would divert traffic away from the existing services and in particular damage British Airways. I have accordingly told Laker Airways that in these circumstances the Skytrain service cannot be allowed to start.

'The UK airline industry, like that of other countries, has faced and will continue to face a period of considerable difficulty. So far we have withstood pressures better than most and I believe that we can surmount them in the future. I do not think that the frequent or major changes in policy affecting the industry are desirable. So, my aim has been to make only such changes in policy as are necessary if the industry is to deploy its resources to best effect in the very competitive international markets in which it has to operate.

'These policy changes will need to be incorporated in new policy guidance for the Civil Aviation Authority, for which I shall be seeking the approval of Parliament in due course. I am also considering whether an amendment to the 1971 Civil Aviation Act will be required. I shall set out my proposals in greater detail in a White Paper to be published in the autumn. Meanwhile, I am placing in the Vote Office a note about the factual background to the Review.'

Applications to increase domestic air fares

The Civil Aviation Authority has received applications for increases in air fares from 1 November from 12 British airlines operating domestic air services, and for the introduction of an instant purchase excursion fare between London and Manchester, Edinburgh and Glasgow. The increases applied for vary from route to route but range mainly from 10 to 15 per cent.

Subject to the CAA's approval, on the main trunk routes, between London and Belfast, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Prestwick, British Airways have applied for the tourist one-way fare (at present £19) to become £21, for the tourist one-way off-peak fare to go up from £13 to £14.50, and for the first class one-way fare of £28.50 to become £32.

British Caledonian's application for the

trunk routes is the same as that made by British Airways except that they have applied for a tourist one-way off-peak fare of £14; for the introduction of a £25 winter weekend instant purchase excursion return fare between London (Gatwick) and Edinburgh/Glasgow; and for a winter weekend instant purchase excursion return fare of £25 between London (Gatwick) and Manchester.

Application has been made for a 20 per cent increase in the fares on the routes between London (Gatwick and Heathrow) and Birmingham; Blackpool and Manchester; and Exeter and Southampton.

A 10 per cent increase is being sought on the basic fares for other UK internal routes, with certain exceptions where the increase applied for is 15 per cent. On Scottish internal routes, routes to and from the Channel Islands and Belfast routes, permission for an increase of 15 per cent has been requested. On Isle of Man routes a 15 per cent increase has been applied for on the 'basic' winter fare, with summer fares to rise to maintain the existing differentials.

Nomad Travel Club Ltd.

The Civil Aviation Authority has now repaid to clients of Nomad Travel Club Ltd. monies they had paid to that company for flights they did not receive when the company ceased in February of this year. The payments have been made out of the bond held by Trustees for the Civil Aviation Authority, the National Westminster Bank Ltd.

Air travel organisers, before being granted a licence by the Civil Aviation Authority, are required to obtain and keep in force a bond which may be called upon in the event of the licensee ceasing to trade and being unable to carry out his obligations to his customers. Members of the Association of British Travel Agents are bonded through the association while other travel organisers (like Nomad Travel Club) are bonded direct with the Authority through the Trustees.

Air Travel Reserve Fund Agency

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, has appointed three members of the Air Travel Reserve Fund Agency. They are Miss V. Di Palma, Mr. R. G. Douglas and Mr. R. A. Pycroft. All the appointments are for a period of two years.

Lord Kearton to be chairman of BNOC

Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, has announced that Lord Kearton has accepted his invitation to become the first chairman of the British National Oil Corporation, subject to the enactment of the Bill now before Parliament. Meanwhile, Lord Kearton will be chairman of the Organising Committee which Mr. Benn proposes to set up for the establishment of the Corporation.

Assistance for the textile clothing and footwear industries

The following statement on Government help to the textile, clothing and footwear industries was made on 23 July in the House of Commons by Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry:

'Firstly, we have decided to provide up to £20 million under Section 8 of the Industry Act 1972 to raise productivity in the clothing industry, through help for modernisation and re-equipment. It will be available to all sectors. This is a medium- to long-term measure which will help the whole textile industry, which depends on the clothing industry for a significant proportion of its domestic sales. Details will be announced shortly, after final discussions with the Clothing EDC.

'Secondly, we are ready to explore with other sectors the scope and need for schemes under the Industry Act which are suited to their particular circumstances, provided the financial resources can be found. Discussions have already begun with the footwear and jersey fabric industries.

'Thirdly, public purchasing. Government Departments are being asked to ensure that they get their requirements of textiles, clothing and footwear from British manufacturers and that these use British materials. I hope that other purchasers in the public sector will, as far as possible within present constraints, be guided by the same principle. It would be against our interests as an exporting nation to violate the international rules about discrimination. Nor can the Exchequer be expected to accept grossly unfavourable terms for domestic products.

'Fourthly, we stand ready to invoke the safeguards provided in the GATT Multi-Fibre Arrangement where imports of textiles or clothing cause or threaten disruption. Consistently with the MFA, the European Commission is negotiating bilateral arrangements, covering the Community as a whole, with the principal supplier countries, to prolong and in some cases extend the existing restraints on the more sensitive products. The Community have just completed negotiations on these lines with Hong Kong.

'Extended restraints on Taiwan will be published shortly. If other negotiations cannot be brought to a speedy conclusion, we would be entitled to propose that the Community use the provisions in the MFA which allow importing countries to take their own safeguards.

'In the case of footwear, Poland, Romania and Czechoslovakia have undertaken that their exports to the UK of men's leather footwear will be at a level between 5 and 10 per cent below that of comparable exports in 1974. We are keeping the position on footwear under careful review.

'To consider action in good time, we must know about potentially disruptive imports. The Government's fifth measure is accordingly to apply to all clothing and textile imports from non-EEC sources the surveillance licensing which is already in force for some man-made fibres, yarns and fabrics. These are not import controls; licences will be issued on demand. This extended surveillance will take effect from 1 September. The administrative arrangements will be announced as soon as possible.

'Sixth, anti-dumping powers. An industry which thinks it has the makings of a case for use of these powers should not hesitate to come immediately to the Department of Trade, whom they will find very ready to give advice and help and to take vigorous action where dumped imports cause or threaten material injury. Cases have to be properly investigated; but where there is a good case and an imminent threat of injury we have powers to take provisional action for up to six months.

'Finally, the ceilings on duty-free imports from Portugal will be properly applied. Hon. Members will know that customs duties have been reimposed from 15 July on woven outergarments.

'The immediate difficulties of these industries spring primarily from the world-wide decline in demand for their products. Our aim is to assist a constructive response to change and to avoid change at a pace which causes undue social hardship. The range of measures I have announced shows the Government's determination to see textile, clothing and footwear industries which are profitable and competitive so as to provide secure and well paid jobs.'

Petition for Fidelity Life to be wound up

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, on 28 July presented a petition to the High Court for the winding up of Fidelity Life Assurance Ltd.

The Secretary of State for Trade has also applied to the High Court for the appointment of the Official Receiver as Provisional Liquidator. If this application is granted, the conduct of Fidelity Life's affairs will become the responsibility of the Official Receiver, subject to the supervision of the High Court.

A spokesman for the Department of Trade said: 'At the end of 1974 it appeared to the Department that certain of Fidelity Life's assets had deteriorated in value and that it could no longer be satisfied that the value of Fidelity Life's assets exceeded is liabilities. After discussions with the Department Fidelity Life ceased issuing new policies as from 14 January 1975.

'In the light of further information the Department of Trade has concluded that there is no reasonable prospect of Fidelity Life being able to meet its liabilities to its policyholders and other creditors and has petitioned for the company to be wound up, which will ensure that Fidelity Life's assets are not dissipated on a first come, first served, basis.'

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Counselling service to help small firms

An experimental Small Firms Counselling Service was launched on 23 July in Newcastle upon Tyne by Gregor MacKenzie, Minister of State for Industry.

Speaking at the second anniversary of the opening of the Newcastle Small Firms Information Centre, Mr. MacKenzie said:

'Since the first Centre was opened in Newcastle two years ago, it has answered some 20,000 questions from businessmen and has established close working relationships with some 300 sources of assistance to small firms in the Northern Region. It has assisted in setting up Small Business Clubs and taken part in the organisation of other groups and schemes designed to help in business matters. Now I am here to start an additional service – the Small Firms Counselling Service, which could well become a pilot scheme for the rest of the country. Basically it is no more than creating the opportunity for an inexperienced businessman to discuss his problems with an experienced businessman who has special knowledge of the field in which the problem lies.

'Because it is the Centre's job to know such things, it knows how to get in touch with experts of the calibre and integrity this job demands. It has received assistance from the Regional Chambers of Commerce, the CBI, the Professional Institutes and Associations, and through these bodies we have a number of volunteer Counsellors. These are the people on whom the success of the scheme really depends. Any small firm in the North wishing to take advantage of this new free service has only to contact the Small Firms Information Centre.'

10,000th inquirer for NW Small Firms Information Centre

The North West Small Firms Information Centre, set up by the Department of Industry, has dealt with its 10,000th inquirer and is the first regional centre outside London to reach this figure.

Noel Belam, Regional Director of the Department commented: 'This is a significant landmark for our Centre and a commendable result bearing in mind that it was one of the last to open in shop premises. The rate of inquiries continues to grow and is now approaching 200 a week, indicating that the Centre is fulfilling a useful function for the small firms sector. The effectiveness of the service depends of course on the response of all our information contacts and we are very grateful for their ready co-operation.'

Another Government factory for Cleveland

The English Industrial Estates Corporation has announced that work has begun on a 2,495 m² (26,856 sq. ft.) advance factory on the Teesside Industrial Estate, Thornaby, Co. Cleveland.

A contract for building the factory has been awarded to Brims and Co. Ltd., of Middlesbrough. Architects for the project are Blackbell and Rooker, of Thornaby, and the quantity surveyors are Davis, Belfield and Everest, of Gateshead.

The factory should be ready for occupation during the spring of 1976.

Government aid for mineral exploration

Assistance totalling £1,365,918 has so far been approved by the Department of Industry for mineral exploration projects in Great Britain since the Mineral Exploration and Investment Grants Act 1972 came into force.

The third annual report*, published on 24 July states that 30 companies working on mineral exploration in 126 areas have applied for assistance totalling £1,451,624: 65 of these projects were in Scotland and the rest in Wales and North and South West England.

In the year ending 31 March, covered by the report, eight companies, three British and five overseas firms registered in Britain, applied for £93,115 worth of aid for 15 exploration projects. Eight were for fluorspar exploration in the North of England and the Pennines and one for barium minerals. The others were for non-ferrous metals exploration in Wales, Scotland and the South West.

In addition to assistance already awarded by the Department, a further £85,706 involving 16 projects is still under consideration. Work on 74 projects has been finished.

The Mineral Exploration and Investment Grants Act 1972 enables the Government to give financial assistance towards exploration for mineral deposits in Great Britain and on the Continental Shelf. Up to 35 per cent of the costs of searching for non-ferrous metals, fluorspar, barium minerals and potash may be obtained. This covers exploration and evaluation of a project up to the point where a decision can be taken of the commercial viability of an orebody. The Act came into force on 24 February 1972 but companies were invited to draw up proposals and submit them for approval when the scheme was announced on 8 July 1971. This third report covers the period 1 April 1974 to 31 March 1975.

Full details of the scope and conditions of the scheme are set out in a booklet entitled *Financial Assistance for Mineral Exploration in Great Britain: A Guide for Industry*, which can be obtained from the Department of Industry, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London, SW1.

* Mineral Exploration and Investment Grants Act Third Annual Report by the Department of Industry for the period 1 April 1974 to 31 March 1975 (HMSO bookshops, 18p, by post 23½p).

Bankruptcy Annual Report published

The number of bankruptcy cases administered in 1974 rose to 5,208 from 3,380 in 1973.

In six cases estimated liabilities exceeded £500,000, including one involving £1,790,975.

The total deficiencies estimated by debtors (liabilities less assets) rose by nearly £20 million to over £31 million, an average of £5,922 per case.

These statistics emerge from the Annual Report on bankruptcy, published for the Department of Trade on 28 July.

Of 3,387 trading failures, the principal business classifications affected were the construction industry (1,017), retailers (874), road haulage, taxis and hire cars (337) and financial business and professional services (221).

There was a rise in the number of prosecutions for bankruptcy offences (239 against 193 in 1973) and a drop in the number of bankrupts applying for discharge (715 against 1,067).

Copies of the Bankruptcy General Annual Report for 1974 are available from HMSO, 49 High Holborn, London WC1 and branches price 50p, or by post, price 55½p from PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH.

Bankruptcy is a process which relates to the insolvency of individuals, who may or may not be involved in business ventures. This report does *not* cover the insolvency of limited companies.

Darjeeling Holdings Ltd. – appointment of inspectors

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, has appointed Peter Julian Millett, QC, of 9 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, London, WC2, and Ian Macdonald Bowie, Chartered Accountant, of 11 Ironmonger Lane, London, EC2, to investigate the affairs of Darjeeling Holdings Ltd. under the provisions of Sections 164 and 172 of the Companies Act 1948.

Mr. Shore announced his intention to appoint Inspectors on 2 July, following the receipt of applications from shareholders.

Protection of Depositors Act 1963

Companies treated as banking or discount companies. The following companies are recognised by the Secretary of State as banking or discount companies for the purposes of the Protection of Depositors Act 1963 (as amended) as at 30 June, 1975. Companies marked with an asterisk are also recognised as banking or discount companies for the purposes of Schedule 8 to the Companies Act 1948 (as amended).

*Alexanders Discount Co. Ltd.
Algemene Bank Nederland NV
*Allen, Harvey and Ross Ltd.
Allied Irish Banks Ltd.
*American Express International Banking Corporation
*Anglo-Portuguese Bank Ltd.
*Antony Gibbs Holdings Ltd.
*Arbuthnot Latham and Co. Ltd.
*Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd.

Banca Commerciale Italiana SpA
*Banco de Bilbao
*Banco de Santander
Banco do Brasil SA
*Banco Espanol en Londres SA
*Bank Leumi (UK) Ltd.
*Bank of Adelaide (The)
*Bank of America National Trust and Savings Association
*Bank of Cyprus (London) Ltd.
*Bank of India
Bank of Ireland
*Bank of London and South America Ltd.
*Bank of Montreal
*Bank of New South Wales
*Bank of New Zealand
*Bank of Nova Scotia (The)
Bank of Scotland
Bank of Scotland Finance Corporation Ltd.
*Bank of Tokyo Ltd. (The)
*Bankers Trust Co.
*Banque Belge Ltd.
*Banque Belgo-Zairoise SA
*Banque de L'Indochine
Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas, SA
*Banque de Suez (UK) Ltd.
*Banque Nationale de Paris Ltd.
Barclays Bank Ltd.
*Barclays Bank International Ltd.
Barclays Bank (London and International) Ltd.
*Baring Brothers and Co. Ltd.
*Brandts Ltd.
*British Bank of the Middle East (The)
*Brown, Shipley and Co. Ltd.

*Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
*Cater Ryder and Co. Ltd.
*Chartered Bank (The)
*Charterhouse, Japhet Ltd.
*Chase Manhattan Bank, NA (The)
Chemical Bank
*C. Hoare and Co.
City National Bank of Detroit
*Clive Discount Co. Ltd.
Clydesdale Bank Ltd.
Clydesdale Bank Finance Corporation Ltd.
*Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Ltd. (The)
*Commercial Bank of Australia Ltd. (The)
*Commercial Bank of the Near East Ltd. (The)
Co-operative Bank Ltd.
County Bank Ltd.
Coutts and Co.
Coutts Finance Co.
*Crédit Industriel et Commercial
*Crédit Lyonnais
Crocker National Bank

Dai Ichi Kangyo Bank Ltd.
Daiwa Bank Ltd. (The)
Detroit Bank and Trust Co. (The)
Dow Banking Corporation

European Brazilian Bank Ltd.

*First National Bank of Boston
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*First National City Bank
First National Finance Corporation Ltd.
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Gray Dawes and Co. Ltd.
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*Habib Bank Ltd.
*Hambros Bank Ltd.
Harris Trust and Savings Bank
*Hill, Samuel and Co. Ltd.
*Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (The)

International Commercial Bank Ltd.
*International Westminster Bank Ltd.
*Ionian Bank Ltd.
Irving Trust Co.
Italian International Bank Ltd.

Japan International Bank Ltd.
*Jessel, Toynbee and Co. Ltd.
*J. Henry Schroder Wagg and Co. Ltd.
Johnson Matthey Bankers Ltd.
Julian S. Hodge and Co. Ltd.
Julius Baer International Ltd.

*Keyser Ullman Ltd.
*King and Shaxson Ltd.
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*Lewis's Bank Ltd.
Lloyds Associated Banking Co. Ltd.
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Rothschild Intercontinental Bank Ltd.
*Royal Bank of Canada (The)
Royal Bank of Scotland Ltd. (The)

*Samuel Montagu and Co. Ltd.
Samuel Montagu (MBFC) Ltd.
*Sanwa Bank Ltd. (The)
Scandinavian Bank Ltd.
*Seccombe, Marshall and Campion Ltd.
Security Pacific National Bank
*S. G. Warburg and Co. Ltd.
*Singer and Friedlander Ltd.
*Slater, Walker Ltd.
*Smith, St. Aubyn and Co. Ltd.
*Société Générale pour Favoriser le Dévelopement du Commerce et de l'Industrie en France SA
*Standard Bank Ltd. (The)
*State Bank of India
Sumitomo Bank Ltd. (The)
*Swiss Bank Corporation
*Swiss-Israel Trade Bank

Tokai Bank Ltd. (The)
*Toronto-Dominion Bank (The)

*Union Bank of Switzerland
*Union Discount Company of London Ltd. (The)
*United Bank Ltd.
United Dominions Trust Ltd.
United International Bank Ltd.

Western American Bank (Europe) Ltd.
Williams, Glyn and Co.
Williams and Glyn's Bank Ltd.

*Yorkshire Bank Ltd.

(This list replaces that published on page 137 of *Trade and Industry* on 18 July.)

Patents endorsed 'Licences of Right'

Under Section 35 of the Patents Act 1949 the following patents were endorsed 'Licences of Right' on the date specified.

Number	Grantee	Subject-matter
11 July 1975		
939,678	Thomas Ashworth and Co. Ltd.	Improvements in or relating to moisture testing apparatus
1,032,029	Thomas Ashworth and Co. Ltd.	An adapter for hollow rollers or beams
1,091,093	Thomas Ashworth and Co. Ltd.	Improvements in or relating to alarm contact boxes
1,252,805	Bostik Ltd.	Improvements in or relating to polymeric compositions
1,271,046	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Converter for the conversion of heat to electrical energy
1,273,940	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Installation for surveying the displacement of a structure in a nuclear reactor
1,274,405	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Nuclear fuel assembly
1,274,407	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Prestressing device for an enclosure or vessel resistant to high pressures
1,275,887	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	A creep cell which is primarily intended for use in nuclear reactors
1,276,488	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Nuclear reactor fuel element
1,276,785	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Method of preparing tritium-labelled peptides
1,280,139	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Fuel element for a nuclear reactor
1,282,075	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	A decanning machine for a nuclear reactor fuel assembly
1,283,323	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Device for measuring linear movements
1,285,844	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Cooling device for safer conducting coils
1,287,071	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Method of drilling ground in a liquid environment and apparatus and a nozzle therefor
1,300,905	Thomas Ashworth and Co. Ltd.	Improvements in or relating to electrically powered sirens
1,362,196	Thomas Ashworth and Co. Ltd.	Improvements in or relating to electrical switches
1,350,905	Darrel Cockroft	Improvements in or relating to a key-cutting machine
15 July 1975		
1,014,871	Edward Williams Holdings Ltd.	Improvements in or relating to copy-turning attachments
1,110,872	Edwatd Williams Holdings Ltd.	Hydraulic drives
1,137,135	Edward Williams Holdings Ltd.	Change-speed power-transmission mechanisms
1,281,307	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Method of weld testing of parts by optical spectrography
1,325,954	Elf Union and Ateliers des Charmilles SA	Improvements in or relating to a process and system for supplying an emulsion of liquid fuel and water to a heating burner
1,339,208	Douglas Hodgson	Stabilised propelled pontoon structures
1,348,546	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.	Phase locked loop
1,358,978	Maclaren Snow Ltd.	Equipment to collect grass-cuttings directly from a grass-mower
17 July 1975		
1,081,489	Thomas Ashworth and Co. Ltd.	Improvements in or relating to alarm bells
1,224,087	Citroen SA (Automobiles Citroen, Berliet Panhord)	Improvements, in and relating to gear boxes
1,232,282	Smith and Nephew Research Ltd.	Improvements in or relating to extruded composite plastic filaments
1,235,102	Conveyancer Ltd.	Vehicle transmission and control systems
1,306,800	Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citroen	Improvements in or relating to ash-trays
1,311,586	Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citroen	Improvements in or relating to rough finishing and honing bores in work-pieces
1,135,150	AGFA-Gavaert Aktiengesellschaft	Photographic camera
1,308,116	AGFA-Gavaert Aktiengesellschaft	Method and apparatus for printing coloured images
1,375,914	Hansjorg Finger Trading as Firma H. Finger	Improvements in or relating to a water tight watch case

Any person who claims that the patentee at the time of endorsement of any of the above Patents was precluded by a contract in which claimant is interested from granting licences under the patents may apply for cancellation of the endorsement on Patents Form No. 45 within two months after the date of endorsement.

E. Armitage
Comptroller

Industrial property study fellowships

The Council of Europe is to award fellowships of not more than one year's duration to nationals of Member States wishing to undertake research work of European interest in their own or other countries, or to further their studies or training by studies of an international character. Such research or further studies must be in the field of industrial property and could be of a legal, technical or economic character.

Applicants must have already completed higher studies or have experience in industrial property matters.

The value of a fellowship will be determined by the Secretariat General of the Council and travelling expenses will be paid.

Holders of a fellowship will be required to write a thesis of 20,000 to 60,000 words concerning their research within three months of the expiry of the fellowship or to give satisfactory evidence that they have completed their further studies.

Telephone inquiries may be made to Mr. H. W. Savage, tel. 01-405 8721, ext. 3318.

Copies of the regulations and application forms can be obtained from Room 107, The Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, London WC2A 1AY, to which address completed application forms should be returned by 12 December 1975.

Finance for technology

The National Research Development Corporation provides financial and other support for technological developments of potential commercial importance. NRDC promotes the adoption by industry of new products and processes invented in government laboratories, universities and elsewhere. NRDC is participating in joint ventures with industry on an increasing scale. By supporting projects NRDC makes it possible for individual firms or groups of companies to undertake and accelerate the development and production of new products and processes of national importance. The corporation welcomes submissions in confidence from firms who have promising new projects to launch in any branch of industry or commerce. The conditions for its considering proposals of this kind are set out in a leaflet which may be obtained on application, either by writing to the National Research Development Corporation, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SL, or by telephoning 01-828 3400.

Court Line inspector's report published

An interim report of inspectors appointed to investigate the affairs of Court Line Ltd. was published on 30 July. (HMSO, price £2.19 net).

Two inspectors, James Comyn, QC and Douglas Morpeth, SCA, were appointed on 23 August 1974 under the provisions of Section 165(b) of the Companies Act 1948. A third inspector, John Hamilton, was appointed on 30 September 1974. Their interim report was submitted on 21 July 1975.

Gas leak detectors by Analytical Instruments

Find the smallest tracer gas leaks in:

* Mass produced products, e.g. refrigerators, transistors, vapour pressure actuators, gas lighters etc.
* Industrial or laboratory pipework and plant.
* Buried or exposed land pipes, cables or vessels.

If tracing leaks helps you save money or improve quality or safety then contact Mr. J. Clark, Analytical Instruments Ltd., Green Lane, Fowlmere, Royston, Herts, SG8 7QS. Telephone: Fowlmere (076382) 317.

Proposed new oil heaters regulations

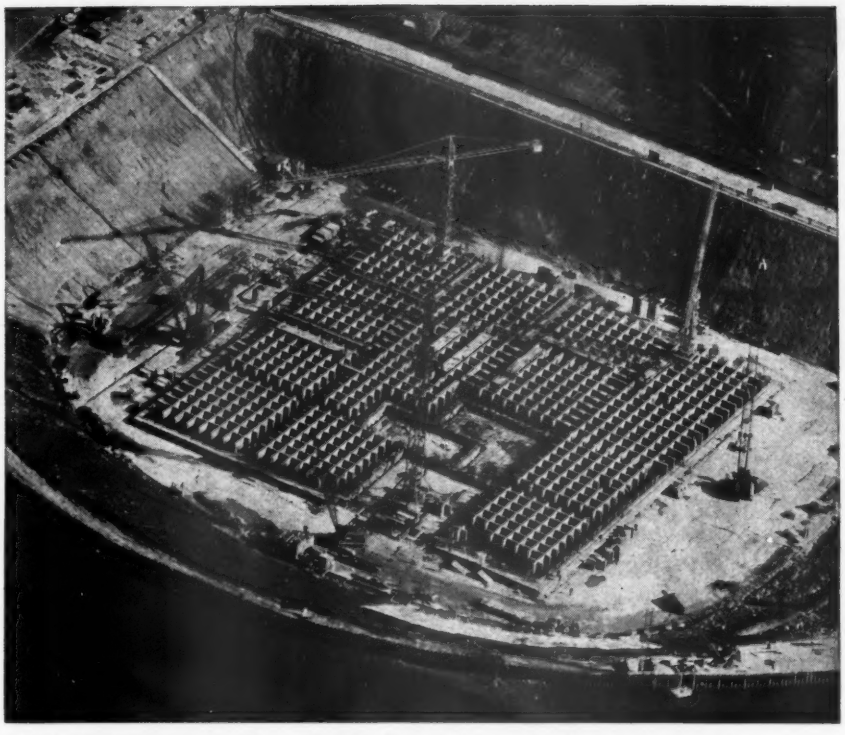
Improved safety regulations for domestic oil heaters were announced on 22 July by Alan Williams, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

Answering a question in the House of Commons from John Tomlinson (Meriden), Mr. Williams said: 'Draft regulations based on British Standard 3300:1974 have today been circulated to interested bodies for comment. They are intended to replace the existing Oil Heaters Regulations 1962 and 1966.'

The main feature of the new regulations is a provision requiring oil heaters to extinguish themselves on being overturned. Manufacturers in the United Kingdom have been meeting this requirement, which was incorporated in the revised metricated Standard for oil heaters published by the British Standards Institution in 1974, for some time. But the revised regulations will also prevent the sale of second-hand heaters manufactured at an earlier date which do not incorporate this safeguard.

The proposed new regulations will be made under the Consumer Protection Act 1961. The existing Oil Heaters Regulations, which are based on the 1960 edition of the Standard, as amended in 1963, prescribe comprehensive safety requirements with which all portable domestic oil heaters (whether new or second-hand) offered for sale in this country must comply. These requirements cover such matters as safe burning, stability, emission of carbon monoxide, fire risk to walls and floors, maximum spillage of fuel on overturning, draught resistance and warning labelling.

Manufacturers of oil heaters in this country have for some time been so designing their appliances that they are self-extinguishing if overturned when lit. This will become a statutory requirement when the proposed new regulations are made.



Britain's largest concrete offshore oil production platform takes shape at Ardyne Point, Argyllshire. This £35 million gravity platform, for the Shell/Esso Cormorant Field in the North Sea, will be kept in place by its own weight – a massive 343,000 tonnes without deck equipment – in a sea depth of more than 150 metres. It will act as the main pumping station for the Brent Field pipeline system, linking five offshore fields to a crude oil storage and treatment terminal at Sullom Voe in the Shetland Isles. Construction of concrete offshore platforms at Ardyne Point is a joint venture by Sir Robert McAlpine and Sons Ltd., and the Sea Tank Co. of France. Two other concrete platforms are under construction at the site. A huge caisson for the Brent Field platform is being built in a dry basin on shore. The concrete raft forming the base of a gas processing platform for the Frigg Field was floated out in March for the second phase of construction to continue at offshore moorings.

New member of Oil Development Council

Professor F. G. T. Holliday has been appointed a member of the Oil Development Council for Scotland.

Professor Holliday is at present the Professor of Zoology at Aberdeen University. He was previously Professor of Biology at the University of Stirling and served for a time as Deputy Principal of the University. Professor Holliday is a member of the Nature Conservancy Council, the Natural Environment Research Council, the Council of the Scottish Marine Biological Association, and is Chairman of the Scottish Field Studies Association. He is also a member of the Scottish Economic Council.

His appointment follows the resignation earlier this year of Mr. H. A. Maxwell, who was a member of the Nature Conservancy Council and Chairman of its Advisory Committee for Scotland. The Oil Development Council's terms of reference are to advise the Government on all aspects of oil development affecting Scotland.

Clearance of merger proposals

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection has decided, on the information at present before her, not to refer the following proposed mergers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973.

1 International Nickel Ltd. and Daniel Doncaster and Sons Ltd.
2 Odhams (Watford) Ltd. and Sun Printers Ltd.
3 House of Fraser Ltd. and Chiesmans Ltd.

In the light of assurances given by Courtaulds Ltd. to the Director General of Fair Trading, Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has decided not to refer the acquisition by Courtaulds Ltd. of a substantial minority shareholding in Highams Ltd. to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for investigation under the merger provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973.

The assurances given by Courtaulds are to the effect that they will reduce their holding in the voting share capital of Highams to below 25 per cent by 31 December 1975 or such later date as may be agreed between Courtaulds and the Director General; that they will not seek representation on the Board of Directors of Highams; nor will they through their shareholding in Highams seek in any other way materially to influence the policy of that company.

Energy – the key resource

Sir Jack Rampton, Permanent Secretary, Department of Energy, stressed the importance of saving energy, cutting out waste and developing new sources of energy. Only 'totally unacceptable' reductions in the prospective world demand for energy would remove these needs, he told the Council of Trent in Nottingham.

Speaking on 'Energy – the key resource', Sir Jack said the quantities of energy needed to sustain the lifestyle of a modern society were enormous and demand had been rising fast. Even our own relatively modest growth in energy demand – 1.8 per cent a year – meant a doubling in energy use every 30 years. And many countries at an early stage of development, used relatively little energy as yet.

But if the whole world were now to use energy at the same rate as the United States of America, world energy consumption would be six times as big as at present. And if world demand continued to grow, as in the past, at 5 per cent a year it would double every 15 years and would be running at two and a half times its present rate in 20 years' time.

No estimates could say when any particular fossil fuel – coal, gas or oil – would run out. But they could impress on policy-makers that fossil reserves could be approaching exhaustion in the foreseeable future and that everything possible should be done to search for and develop substitutes in good time.

Sir Jack added: 'But some may say if fossil fuels may run out, can't the world cut back on its consumption, can't we prolong their life indefinitely by using less, by leading the simple life, by returning to the sort of lives our forefathers lived? I can only say that I don't believe that it is possible and I don't believe it is necessary.

'Of course we must conserve as much as we can. We must use energy more efficiently and we must avoid waste. But the fact is that energy is the foundation of living standards, in food production, in industry and in the home. . . . Let us be realists. We must look for alternative sources of energy which can be used, first to stretch, and ultimately to take the place of fossil fuels as these become exhausted.'

Sir Jack said that vast quantities of energy are available in nature from, for example, the sun, tides and the heat of the earth itself. The problem was to tap those resources at economic cost.

Potentially the most promising new source in the United Kingdom was wave power. A recent study had confirmed that large quantities of energy are available – a 600-mile stretch of sea could meet half the total United Kingdom electricity requirements.

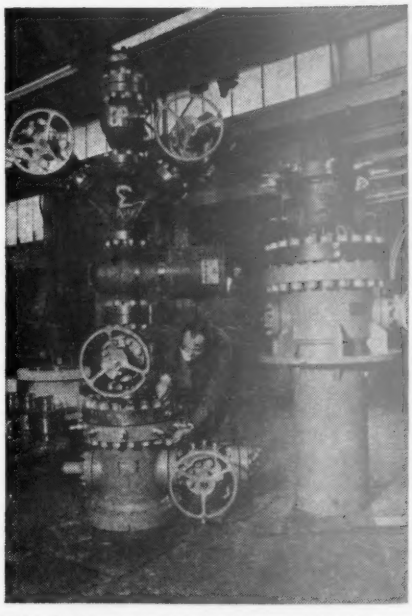
But if there was no early prospect of employing such 'non-conventional' energy sources, the world, on the basis of international co-operation, should press ahead to ensure that developed technologies were available when and where they were needed.

Sir Jack said that in the medium term the world was looking to nuclear power to meet any shortfall in fossil fuel and non-conventional energy. If, for example, United Kingdom energy demand continued to grow at 1.8 per cent a year nuclear power could be called upon to fill an energy gap of 50-100 million tons of coal equivalent (mtce) by 1990 and perhaps 250 mtce by 2000 A.D. 'I cannot be sure,' Sir Jack said, 'that this gap will occur – only that it might. It would therefore be the height of folly not to plan to be able to meet it.'

Finally, Sir Jack discussed whether technology would keep pace with energy demand and also environmental considerations. 'On the first point,' he said, 'I have enormous faith in the inventive genius of man. There will be setbacks and disappointments and the economics of energy may change. But I do not foresee that the reasonable demands of the world for energy will remain unsatisfied through technological failure.'

So far as the environment was concerned, Sir Jack said that it would be wholly counter-productive to attempt to push ahead as if environmental considerations were of no consequence or did not even exist. But we must keep a sense of proportion.

'Of course, environment and safety considerations are desperately important,' he said. 'All efforts to make energy available are worthless if they turn the world into a wilderness. But energy and its use, all mean change and some risk. There is no escape from this however much we may do to adapt, contain, mitigate and reduce environmental effects.'



This 'Christmas tree' (as it is known in the trade) will soon be planted in a field in the North Sea. It is a wellhead assembly, being checked at the premises in Stroud of Oilfield Equipment Ltd. When the two parts are joined, the assembly is 17 ft. high. BP's Forties Field platforms Graythorpe I and Highland I will have 27 wellhead assemblies each. An order for about 400 tonnes of steel castings for the 54 assemblies is being supplied by F. H. Lloyd and Co. Ltd., Wednesbury.

Energy utilisation conference

Alex Eadie, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy, will be the opening speaker at a conference on energy utilisation and conservation in Glasgow in September (*Trade and Industry*, 27 June, page 736). The conference, Eucon '75 (2-4 September), is being organised by, and held at, the National Engineering Laboratory, East Kilbride. It is aimed principally at management.

Subjects to be discussed include the role of energy management in industry, finance for energy saving, including the Government's £3 million a year loan scheme to encourage energy-saving capital investment in industry, United Kingdom and European energy policy, and the techniques, processes and services available to firms.

There will be presentations by speakers from industry, universities and consultants from Britain and continental Europe; and from research associations, the Department of Energy, the Department of Industry and the EEC Commission.

Delegates will be able to see research and development work at the laboratory related to improving energy utilisation. Dr. Walter Marshall, chief scientist at the Department of Energy, will be guest speaker at a conference on 3 September.

Eucon '75 will be held at the National Engineering Laboratory. Further details may be obtained from Birniehill Institute, NEL, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 0QU (tel. East Kilbride 20222).

Company implements Monopolies Commission recommendations on asbestos supplies

Undertakings have been given by Turner and Newall Ltd. to implement the recommendations made by the Monopolies Commission in their report on the supply of asbestos and certain asbestos products. Alan Williams, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, replying to a question from James Wellbeloved (Erith and Crayford) said in the House of Commons on 23 July:

'As a result of the consultations which my Department has had with Turner and Newall Ltd., the company has given certain undertakings which I consider as requisite for the purpose of remedying or preventing the adverse effects specified in the report.

'The company has undertaken that its agreement with Tunnel Cement Ltd. under which Turner and Newall distributes Tunnel's output of asbestos cement to the extent of a quota related to the company's own sales will be terminated on 31 December 1975 and that it will not be replaced by any similar agreement or understanding.

'The company has undertaken that it has

released the surviving covenantors from the covenants incorporated into agreements entered into by it with Albion Asbestos Co. Ltd. and certain individual covenantors, and The Cape Asbestos Co. Ltd. for the sale to the company of certain businesses, under which the covenantors undertook not to carry on similar businesses for specified periods.

'The company has undertaken that it has terminated the provisions if the agreements with Bestobell Ltd. and W. J. Nelson and Sons Ltd. (Belfast) relating to supply in the United Kingdom which prevent them from buying certain goods from a supplier other than the company or from selling such goods not made or supplied by the company.

'The company has undertaken that in the fields of asbestos textile products, packaging and jointing in the United Kingdom, the company will not acquire, without the consent of the Secretary of State, any competing manufacturing business or any customer business or enter into any agreement or arrangement with any customer business which prevents that customer from buying goods from a supplier other than the company or from selling goods not made or supplied by the company.

'I will be asking the Director General of Fair Trading to keep under review the carrying out of the undertakings, copies of which will be placed in the Library.'

The reference was made to the Monopolies Commission on 18 August 1969 and the report was published on 24 January 1973. The Commission found that monopoly conditions (as defined in the legislation in force when the report was submitted) prevailed in the supply of asbestos and certain asbestos products, because one supplier, Turner and Newall Ltd., had more than one-third of the UK market.

The Commission found that Turner and Newall's monopoly position in itself did not operate against the public interest; but they concluded that two particular 'things done' operated against the public interest. These were:

i the agreement with Tunnel Cement Ltd.; and

ii in the fields of asbestos textiles, packing and jointing:

a the policy of acquiring competing manufacturing businesses and excluding the former competitors for unreasonable periods of time from re-entering the fields; and

b the policy of acquiring customer businesses or making agreements with customers which restrict them from buying certain goods from Turner and Newall's competitors or from selling any such goods which are not made by Turner and Newall.

It is these adverse effects which the undertakings are designed to remedy.

Price Commission report: March to May 1975

The Price Commission's report* to Parliament on its work under the Counter-Inflation Act for the period 1 March to 31 May 1975 was published on 24 July.

The Commission emphasise once again – as they have done consistently over the last 12 months – that 'the primary factor responsible for increased prices is rising labour costs.' The report goes on to point out that with 'productivity and output (now) at best static, there is nothing to offset increases in pay, which thus have their full impact in pushing up prices.'

The report was written before the Chancellor made his statement on inflation on 1 July and before the Government's detailed proposals were published in the White Paper, *The Attack on Inflation* on 11 July. What is said in the report is entirely consistent with the developments which have since taken place in Government policy.

The most important single fact which emerges from the Commission's survey of what has happened in the last three months is that there has been a significant slowing down in the rate of price increases notified to the Commission. This should be reflected in the next few months in a slowing down in the rate of price increases in the shops. The report explains in detail the factors underlying this – temporary – reduction in inflationary pressure.

The big rises in oil and commodity prices are now behind us: many raw material prices are falling: and on the other side of the coin it takes some time before the very high level of pay settlements in recent months would be fully reflected in prices.

But the report makes it very clear that what we have 'is only a breathing space,' and it goes on to say: '. . . if we do use the breathing space to good advantage and if the rate of increase in labour costs is reduced – and reduced sharply – the rate of inflation will be reduced also. If this reduction in the rate of inflation is followed by a further reduction in the rate of pay settlements, price increases will be reduced still further.'

Price restraint. Examining notifications from larger enterprises the Commission intervened in 356 cases to modify, reject or secure the withdrawal of the intended price increases, thereby saving £114 million a year. Exercising its control of profit margins, the Commission secured about £11.4 million by way of price reductions of the absorbing of costs by larger enterprises which had exceeded their permitted gross or net profit margin levels. Inspections of medium-sized and smaller firms resulted in 207 general price reductions, while 292 individual price reductions were obtained following complaints from the public; this should save the consumer about £4.05 million a year. Finally, distributors' gross profit margins were on average 1.9 percentage points below reference levels representing a saving to consumers of about £450 million a year.

* Price Commission Report for the period 1 March to 31 May 1975 (HC 477, HMSO, £1.55).

Cost and prices. During the three months covered by the report: the retail price index increased by 10.3 per cent bringing the increase for the 12 months to May 1975 to 25.0 per cent; the wholesale price index rose by 6.5 per cent bringing the increase for the 12 months to 25.7 per cent; the Commission's own index, based upon price notifications received, rose by 2.5 per cent bringing the 12 months increase up to 18.2 per cent.

The increase in the Commission's own index for the three months is much smaller than that shown by the other two price indices. This is due in part to differences in coverage: the Commission's own index does not include tax changes – the big tax increases made in the April Budget were a significant factor in pushing up the retail price index – nor does it include rent and rate increases. In part it is due to the time lag between the Commission's index, which is based on notifications of impending price increases, and the other indices which represent actual current prices.

Looking at industry's costs over the last three months and the 12 months to May 1975, the report records that: wage rates increased by 8.1 per cent, bringing the increase in the 12 months to 32.6 per cent; materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry rose by 3.2 per cent bringing the increase in the 12 months to 5.5 per cent; the Commission's own index of world commodity prices showed a fall of 10.3 per cent in the three months, and a fall of 28.5 per cent in the 12 months to May 1975.

The report observes that 'these figures demonstrate clearly that the primary factor responsible for increased prices is rising labour costs.'

The increase of 2½ per cent in the Commission's own index in the three months to 31 May compares with nearly 7½ per cent over the three previous months. The latter figure was affected by the 'bunching' of big price increases in important sectors such as oil and nationalised industries.

The report says that it would be quite wrong to interpret these figures as meaning that the rate of inflation as measured by the price increases coming under the Commission's scrutiny had fallen from something like 30 per cent a year to something like 10 per cent a year. A truer picture is presented by the 12 months' figures. These show that for the year to 28 February the increase as measured by the Commission's index was 19.6 per cent and for the year to 31 May it was 18.2 per cent.

Nationalised industries. The report examines prices and costs in the nationalised industries coming within the price control. It shows that in the six months to 31 May 1975 the nationalised industry sector, which accounts for about 15 per cent of total turnover, was responsible for 32 per cent of total price increases made by Category I and II enterprises. In percentage terms, nationalised industry price increases averaged close on 16 per cent, compared with less than 8 per cent for the private sector.

The report does not accept the argument that the size of the price increases made by the nationalised sector in recent months is to any very significant extent a reflection of their prices having been held down relative to private sector prices in the earlier stages of the control. In the first year of price control (1973-74) nationalised industry prices were lagging a little behind private sector prices. But in the second year (1974-75) this shortfall was more than made up and, taking the two-year period of control as a whole, nationalised industry prices increased significantly more than private sector prices.

Nor does the report accept the contention that nationalised industry prices were held down artificially before the control started and that the higher rate of increase in nationalised industry prices which has occurred since then is a reflection of this. All the evidence is that the deficit of the nationalised industries is greater today – despite the recent price increases – than it was in April 1973. In short, the price increases which have been made in the last two years have fallen short of the increase in costs incurred over the same period.

The Commission conclude that the very big increase in nationalised industry prices is a direct reflection of the extent to which nationalised industry costs have also gone up: and the fact that nationalised industry prices have gone up faster than private sector prices is a reflection of the fact that nationalised industry costs have gone up faster than private sector costs.

Profits. The report states that the 'present level of profits is unsatisfactory' and explains why. In the first quarter of 1975, net profit margins for Category I manufacturing and service companies were 51.2 per cent of reference levels; for Category II companies the figure was 49.9 per cent. For the large distributors, net profit margins, which showed a seasonal recovery at Christmas, fell back to a little above 50 per cent of reference levels. (These figures relate to businesses within the control.) They do not include profits on exports or overseas profits which have tended to be more buoyant.

The report comments that prices in the last few months have not increased as much as the rise in pay settlements might have justified and consequently there may be a further squeeze in profit margins. It warns: 'It is possible to squeeze profits in this way for a very limited period of time. But if the squeeze continues too long or if it becomes too intense, the inevitable result is a contraction in activity, a fall in employment and a reduction in investment.'

Investment relief. The investment relief introduced in Stage 4 is designed to enable companies to generate additional funds through prices and profits to help finance their new investment. The amount of planned investment qualifying for relief notified to the Commission now totals £1,517 million. Allowing for the extension of the relief to investment for export and commercial vehicles made in the Budget and for the continuing receipt of some new cases, it is expected that the total investment notified will ultimately approach £2,000 million. Estimating that this is about 55 per cent of the total amount that would, in theory, qualify, the report comments: 'The position therefore is somewhat better than appeared likely at the time our last report was written when we thought that the amount notified was unlikely to exceed 50 per cent of the amount qualifying. Having regard to the increase in the rate of relief to 20 per cent and the extension of the coverage, the total relief due, if the full amounts notified are reflected in prices, may now reach £400 million compared with the £250 million we expected on the old basis when our previous report was written.'

Fresh food prices. The Commission have until now published the results of their regular monitoring of fresh food prices in separate six-monthly reports. This has resulted in a substantial time lag. In future, therefore, the results of the price monitoring will be published as part of the Commission's quarterly report.

The price monitoring for the March-May period shows that the Commission's index of fresh food prices rose by 15.1 per cent in the three months, and by 24.2 per cent in the 12 months to mid-May. These rises were largely explained by the increase in the cost of meat and fruit and vegetables, which reflected both a marked increase in prices and the importance of the two kinds of food in household budgets.

Inquiries and complaints. During the March-May period, the regional offices and headquarter's Information Centre received 17,680 inquiries and complaints. This represents a considerable fall compared with 23,000 in the previous three months. Many of these inquiries were about the registration requirement for Category III firms and about particular aspects of the Code. Fewer complaints about repricing are being received.

Price Commission member resigns

Mr. Ford Kitchen has resigned his membership of the Price Commission following his retirement from business.

Well-informed shopping saves money

Consumer Advisory Centres are an unequivocal 'Best Buy' in the Government's fight against inflation, said Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, on 23 July.

Addressing the annual general meeting of the Association of County Councils at County Hall, London, Mrs. Williams said: 'Consumer advice centres are not, of course, only concerned with price questions. Their pre-shopping advice, their consumer education role, their function of conciliating complainant and trader, their function of helping the consumer assert her rights if conciliation fails – all of these have a heightened importance in the light of our grave economic crisis.

'There is a long way to go before the need for CACs, even in towns that can support them is met. There are now about 60, including mobile units, yet there are many more than 70 towns in Britain of over 75,000 population that could support a CAC. So while I hope the new earmarked grant scheme we have announced will bring us a big step nearer covering the country with CACs, we recognise that complete national coverage is still some way off.

'I have been most impressed with the mobile consumer advice units I have seen and I wonder whether their immediacy and accessibility, the personal contact they bring, is not going to make them the preferred solution for rural areas for the future. Our minds are by no means closed.

'A year ago, I was urging the introduction of price comparison services by local authorities. My aim has always been that shoppers should be in a position to know where the goods they most frequently purchase are available at the cheapest price, without the "shopping around" which is not practicable for most people. But there has been the problem of finance.

'This has led me to look to consumer organisations to undertake voluntary surveys to demonstrate publicly the savings which I have always been convinced could be made through well-informed shopping and, at my request, local consumer groups have undertaken a series of surveys. The results of those held so far – in Glasgow, Southend, Bury and Redcar – are most encouraging. Savings of up to nearly 20 per cent have been found by buying at the cheapest store rather than the dearest and choosing own labels, even without spreading the shopping over more than one store.

'We shall be continuing and developing these voluntary surveys. But the best buy for the consumer in this field is a regular weekly pre-shopping service widely publicised in the area. This must generally mean a local authority service. Because it is so important at present the Government is now prepared to take the exceptional step of making payments to local authorities who are prepared to collect and publicise local prices. The Government is setting aside money for this purpose and will indicate on what lines grants will be made available and how to apply for them.

'What we envisage are weekly lists of the prices of 30 or so basic food and household necessities being charged by a number of named shops in each shopping area covered, including an indication of which shop is cheapest. They need to be published locally in time for the housewife to use the information in planning her weekend shopping. As we have seen, the local Press is generally very willing to publish information of this sort, as well as local radio and television, and of course, every opportunity should be taken to display the lists in places where they will be seen by the public.

'We are already in touch with local authority associations about this and local authorities will shortly be receiving from us a circular giving details and inviting those prepared to undertake this service to send us proposals quickly so that an early allocation of grants can be made.'

Technology News

Laboratory of the Government Chemist Report – digesting the facts

The role of the Laboratory of the Government Chemist in helping to solve the world food shortage is described in the annual report for 1974 published this week*.

The increasing demand for food resources had directed more attention to attaining higher production and reducing losses from deterioration, contamination and attack by pests. The laboratory is contributing to this work at national and international levels through its involvement with pesticides, fertilisers and feeding stuffs.

A survey extending over several years into the organochlorine pesticide residues in mutton and beef fats is reviewed in the report. The examination of wildlife samples continues and a new survey into the residues in human fat is also being considered.

Methods of analysis have included liquid chromatography, a versatile and useful technique for the separation and identification of complex mixtures which is used to determine the active ingredient content of pesticides. This technique has also been used to deal with another new problem arising out of the food shortage, the use of vegetable proteins such as soya bean as an alternative to meat.

'This has made it necessary to ensure that definitive methods of analysis are available for the enforcement of regulations relating to food for sale to the public,' says the report. However the normal analytical procedures cannot differentiate between animal or vegetable protein when mixed together and new methods have been necessary. In addition to liquid chromatography, two other techniques used have been iso-electric focusing, another protein separation method, and the use of serum.

Work has also been done on determining the effect of antibiotics and of additives in animal feeding stuffs and on the trace metal content of these and other foods intended for human consumption. An automatic system for digestion of foods before measurement of trace element contents has been developed. This will make it possible to make a significant increase in the overall rate of analysis and allow more comprehensive studies to be undertaken of trace nutrients and contaminant metals in food. The system, which will interest regional and local authorities, is now being tested on a wide range of foodstuffs.

Other investigations at the laboratory concerned why pre-cooked rice canned for the Armed Services had turned yellow with a 'varnish-like' smell and why there was an unpleasant taste in alcoholic beverages stored in bottles of PVC. Investigations in America showed that vinyl chloride had migrated from the bottles into the liquor during storage. As a result the Government Chemist's laboratory have examined a range of liquid foods and PVC packs and developed methods to detect low levels of vinyl chloride which might be present in the foods.

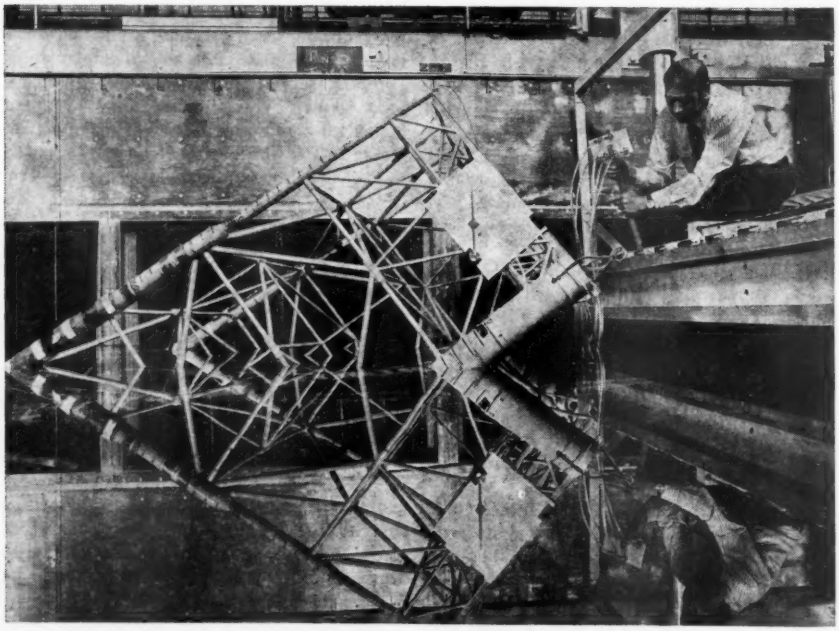
Tests for use in factories to obtain rapid determination of toxic substances in air continue to be developed, with new methods introduced over the last two years for ammonia, formaldehyde and 1-naphthylamine. Revised tests have also been introduced for carbon disulphide, lead and inorganic compounds of lead, chromic acid mist and isophorone. These include in the case of isophorone, a lowering of the recommended maximum allowable airborne concentration in workplaces to meet new circumstances.

One of the less routine laboratory jobs is to provide technical advice to various Government departments. For example microscopic examination of dusts helped evaluate possible hazards from asbestos roof linings in various government buildings and helped to overcome contamination problems in computer installations. Other more unusual jobs were concerned with ropes for use on ships, material used in inflatable liferafts, corrosion problems in a museum and safe disposal of battery acid.

In the detective field, two statuettes seized in a drug smuggling case, one in America and one in the United Kingdom, were examined to establish a common origin of manufacture and fossil bones from the Natural History Museum were analysed. Also it was proved that particles said to have fallen from an aircraft in the vicinity of London Airport could not possibly have done so.

The Laboratory's largest customer was again HM Customs and Excise for whom nearly 180,000 samples were examined. Work on tariff classification and duty rating of imported goods increased in quantity and complexity in 1974. This resulted from adoption of the industrial sections of the European Communities Common Customs Tariff.

* 'Report of the Government Chemist 1974' available from HM Stationery Office, price £2.00.



A 1/75 scale model of the Thistle Field platform 'A' structure, being tested at the National Physical Laboratory. Further tests were carried out on a larger scale model in California and the structure, designed by CJB-Earl and Wright Ltd., is now being built by Laing Offshore at their Graythorp yard. Intended as part of a fixed drilling and production platform, the structure will be floated out to the site, where it will be upended by controlled flooding and placed on the sea bed. It is expected to be in position in the North Sea, off the coast of the Shetland Islands, by July 1976.

New ideas in the melting pot

Britain's record of industrial innovation since the War has not been conspicuously successful. To highlight past mistakes and discuss recent successes, the Institution of Metallurgists are organising an autumn review course, 'Innovation Management in Metallurgy', at the Grand Hotel, Bristol, 31 October-2 November 1975.

Sir Ieuan Maddock, Chief Scientist, Department of Industry will deliver the opening lecture, 'Do we capitalise on our ideas in Britain?'. Other subjects covered by subsequent speakers will include non-ferrous processes, the zinc lead blast furnace, bone and joint replacement, the iron and steel industry and commercial superplastic aluminium.

Further details can be obtained from the Meetings Secretary, The Institution of Metallurgists, Northway House, Whetstone, London N20 9LW.

Gathering data for Air Traffic Control

Marconi Radar Systems Ltd. is to supply a Computerised Modular Monitoring (CMM) system to the Civil Aviation Authority for the new Scottish Air Traffic Control Centre at Atlantic House, Prestwick, at a cost of about £180,000.

The Authority's decision to adopt Marconi CMM follows their order placed with the company in 1973 to remotely control and monitor the en-route radar at Raith Hill from the CAA control centre at Gailes. This application of the Marconi CMM system allowed the equipment at Raith Hill to be unmanned.

The new CMM network will be used to gather system status information from the CAA equipment in Atlantic House and from three en-route radar stations at Stornoway, Lowther and Raith Hill. The same network will be used to remotely control CAA equipment at the out-stations.

At stage one of this project, only system status data will be gathered from Stornoway and Lowther but full facilities for maintenance, status gathering and remote control will be available at Raith Hill which will be controlled from Atlantic House instead of the present centre at Gailes.

At the new centre two visual display units (VDU) and keyboards will be on line for system control, and one VDU and keyboard will be used for off line system investigation.

The new sub-system display panel at the centre, driven and updated by the processor, will also contain facilities to remotely bring in standby units or change the operational configuration of the system.

Developed by Marconi Radar Systems at Leicester, CMM is a versatile control and monitoring system which can be built up from a range of hardware units and software packages to meet the requirements of almost any group of electronic or electro-mechanical equipment.

The hardware content of CMM provides a means of quickly gathering data from a large number of widely dispersed points with a range of miniature Data Selection Units (DSU). These data-gathering units interface with the host equipment without interfering with its operational performance and are capable of gathering both analogue and digital information.

The gathered information is multiplexed to a local Control and Digitising Unit for measurement and transmission to a central control point.

The computing and processing facilities and software functions included in CMM allow the system to perform complex functions normally requiring the services of experienced engineers, as well as routine checking.

People who live in glass houses . . .

A solar-heated bungalow designed by scientists at Loughborough University could cut central heating bills by 60 to 80 per cent.

Trials at Pilkington on a ¼-scale working model have proved that its special energy-saving features could reduce an average household space heating bill of £99 to as little as £20 and no higher than £40. And further savings could be made if solar energy were used for water heating.

Nine solar-heated bungalows are planned for elderly couples on a site at Higher Bebington, Merseyside, in a scheme initiated by Pilkington and Loughborough University in conjunction with Merseyside Improved Houses, a non-profit making housing association which provides rented homes for families who are not able to compete in today's housing market.

The bungalows are designed by Peter Greenwood, building scientist and architect, of Loughborough University and Dr. Howard Ward, formerly of Loughborough, now head of construction studies, Plymouth Polytechnic.

Work on the nine solar-heated bungalows to be built at Higher Bebington is scheduled to begin in autumn this year. Five traditional bungalows of the same size will be built alongside them so that the energy used by both types can be compared.

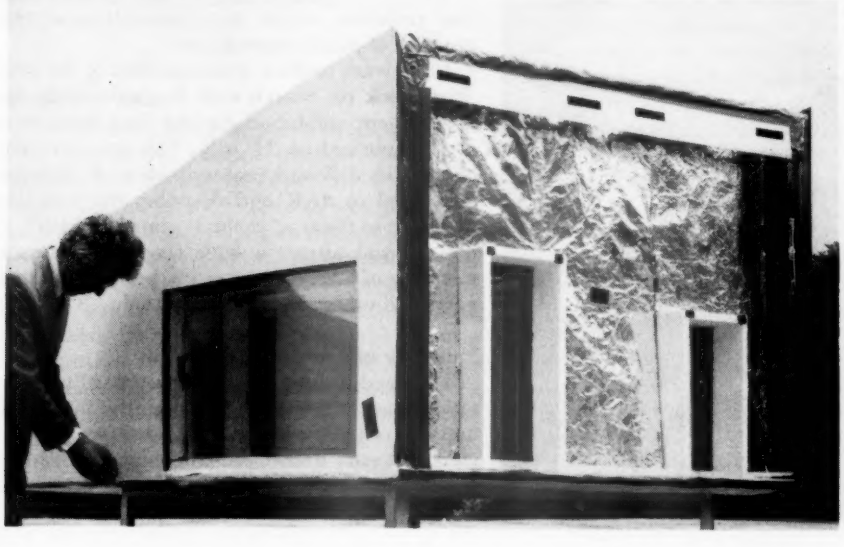
Each of the solar-heated houses will be carefully positioned so that it receives the maximum amount of solar energy. Only heat-absorbing materials, such as engineering brick, will be used in their construction and each will have one outer wall covered by a double glazed outer skin which will 'catch' solar energy.

The solar houses will be highly insulated to prevent heat escaping, with sealed double glazing units in all windows, and each will have a warm-air heating system provided by solar enegy. Excess solar heat will be stored in their roof spaces for use when required.

Overheating in summer will be prevented by natural ventilation and by a reflective blind which can be drawn over the solar wall.

One of the solar-heated bungalows and one of the traditional bungalows will have a solar water heater on its roof so that the effectiveness of solar energy for household hot water systems can be measured.

The solar bungalows will have a back-up system of conventional gas or electric heating for use in the mid-winter months.



NEL conference on pumps and turbines

An international conference on the design and operation of rotodynamic pumps and turbines will be held next year at the Department of Industry's National Engineering Laboratory, East Kilbride, Glasgow, on 1–3 September.

NEL is well known for its work on design and testing of axial, mixed flow and centrifugal pumps, and on water turbines. Most of the conference papers are expected to come from this area. An important aim of the conference is to stimulate discussion between manufacturers, consultants, plant designers and users, and to bring together academic workers, theoreticians and research workers with their industrial counterparts.

An exhibition of the latest developments is planned and it is hoped to arrange visits to local manufacturers and users.

Subjects to be discussed will include: engineering and theoretical design methods and their improvements; empirical methods of estimating losses and the calculation of efficiencies; testing of model pumps and turbines; methods of testing full size machines and site tests; operation and behaviour of pumps and turbines in specific systems; performance in liquids of all types, viscosity and cavitation in machines.

All industrial applications will be covered from generating plant to water supply and fluid transport to the process and chemical industries. Positive displacement machines and fluid power applications will not however be included.

Prospective authors of papers on the above subjects and anyone else interested should write to W. J. Ramsay, National Engineering Laboratory, East Kilbride, Glasgow.

Abstracts of papers are required by this autumn and complete papers by next spring.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

New developments in Britain's marine services

by Stanley Clinton Davis, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Companies, Aviation and Shipping

Improvements in Britain's marine search and rescue (SAR) organisation are being planned in order to strengthen its capacity to handle the rapidly growing number of calls for assistance around our coasts.

These plans, which particularly affect the Coastguard, include:

1 Moving the headquarters of HM Coastguard from London to Poole, where the headquarters of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution is now located.

2 Providing a new central SAR information room at Poole. This will be manned around the clock by the Coastguard to monitor SAR incidents and ensure the right resources are brought to bear on fast-changing situations.

3 Concentrating senior Coastguard staff at the strategically placed existing 28 rescue headquarters around the coast. Five of these headquarters are likely to become new area headquarters where the more complex rescues, and those further from the coast, will be supervised.

4 Improving RN helicopter cover of the Channel, Western Approaches, Irish Sea and Western Scottish waters through the permanent provision of long-range Sea King helicopters on 24-hour standby at Culdrose (Cornwall) and Prestwick (Ayrshire) for SAR and by the replacement of Whirlwind helicopters at Culdrose, and later Lee-on-Solent, by Wessex helicopters.

5 Updating many Coastguard procedures and strengthening co-operation with the other organisations concerned, particularly the Post Office, which provides the coastal radio stations.

6 Preparing new long-term Coastguard planning systems for equipment to ensure the latest technology is brought to bear on SAR problems. For example current trials include radio direction finding at certain stations.

The *Tony Vandervell*, a 54-ft Arun class lifeboat and the newest design to be adopted by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. At present on trials, the *Tony Vandervell* is the first boat with a hull moulded in glass-fibre reinforced plastics to be built for the RNLI. She is due to be stationed at Weymouth. (RNAS photo)

The plans for reorganising the Coastguard have been prepared with the best possible professional advice in the closest consultation with those in the other services. The timing of those parts of the plan which involve increased expenditure will of course depend on their relative priorities within the Government's programme of public expenditure.

I also want to draw attention here to the new 'Handbook on Search and Rescue' which the Department published for the first time, and was announced on 11 July. This sets out very clearly the different responsibilities of all those concerned in SAR and describes the facilities available to them as at the beginning of 1975. I hope it will attract a wide readership among members of SAR organisations, professional seagoers and others who are interested.

Number of incidents doubled

The need to improve the Coastguard organisation has arisen from the greatly increased number of calls on the search and rescue services, not only from merchant ships and fishing vessels but also from holidaymakers in distress and people out in small boats.

Search and rescue
Above, left: Coastguards maintain a visual and listening watch at the Thames operations room at Walton-on-the-Naze which is equipped with the latest electronics and communications aids. Above: A Sea King of 706 Sqdn. RNAS Culdrose hovers over the stricken German ship *Lutria*, 100 miles south west off The Lizard. The Squadron rescued the crew of 28 from lifeboats during the incident, which took place last year. (RN photo).

In the past five years the number of incidents in which the Coastguard are called on to help has nearly doubled, from 2,919 in 1970 to 5,572 in 1974. Last year, which saw an autumn and winter of especially savage storms, there was a rise of 16 per cent in the number of rescue operations. Tragically, some 268 people were drowned. But nearly 7,000 people were saved, and there were many heroic acts by our rescue services.

Our new plans for SAR do not involve the creation of any new organisation. Rather we are making some important changes within the present organisation which brings together a great wealth of resources under different authorities, and seeks to extract the best value from the wide experience we can draw on.

HM Coastguard, with its 28 rescue headquarters and about 350 other stations, will remain the co-ordinating authority. Its job is to find out all the information about a ship or person in distress that is relevant to the rescue, assess the facilities that are required, and then ask for those facilities. They may be ships which are near the scene of the accident, the RNLI fast inflatable craft, or the larger offshore boats, or RN and RAF helicopters and aircraft. Other sources of help include privately-owned boats, and the rescue services of local police, local authorities, yacht clubs and other voluntary organisations. No single organisation could provide the whole spectrum of rescue facilities which are available to the Coastguard either by VHF radio or telephone.

Move to Poole

The RNLI is building a new headquarters at Poole which will provide modern operational facilities and should be ready for occupation before the end of 1975. It is already operating from Poole in temporary accommodation.

The future move of headquarters staff of HM Coastguard out of London also to Poole will be carried out in full consultation with the staff concerned. It should strengthen the already considerable links between the two organisations and will permit the provision of a new central information room where senior officers will monitor around the clock all significant SAR incidents.

These officers will ensure that the staff actually handling the rescue have the maximum physical and staff resources and support and advice that they need.

The new central information room will have the most up-to-date telex and telephone communications, and our professional communication advisers (who incidentally also serve the National Air Traffic Services) are preparing the plans. I hope too we shall be able to build in some form of public viewing access, so that seagoers, yachtsmen and other interested people can visit the room and gain a better understanding of our work.

Next, we plan to concentrate our experienced full time Coastguard officers at the 28 rescue headquarters and so ensure 24-hour availability of senior staff. We will also give more of the straightforward watchkeeping duties at the remaining lookouts to our much larger team of auxiliary coastguards, both men and women, who will still come under the supervision of the regulars.

To give our senior officers a greater operational role and responsibility in co-ordinating the most difficult rescues and to improve administration and planning in the service, we shall select probably five of the rescue headquarters as area headquarters where these 'Area Controllers' will be based. There they will deal with any major disasters or rescues taking place well out to sea.

Scotland will have its own controller – at a headquarters still to be chosen. There will also be an area headquarters in Wales which will probably cover the Bristol Channel and Liverpool Bay as well. The other area headquarters are likely to be on Humberside, at Dover (St. Margaret's Bay/Langdon Bay) and at Poole itself.

The Poole headquarters will thus have a direct executive authority for most rescue incidents in the Channel as well as the task of monitoring all incidents around the coast. It will be well sited in relation to the French SAR centre for the Channel at Jobourg, near Cherbourg.

The Dover headquarters will also house the control centre for the Channel Navigation Information Service. This is the Anglo-French service of information and advice to shipping which for several years now has helped keep ships in the internationally agreed traffic lanes, and so prevent collisions in the busiest shipping route in the world.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

Operational developments in the RNLI

Offshore and inshore life-boat cover has been effectively improved by the introduction of a substantial number of new craft, more of which will be in service shortly.

The effectiveness of the offshore life-boat fleet has been much improved by placing 16 fast life-boats at key stations around the coast, each of which is capable of reaching a casualty 30 miles from the shore in no more than two hours. A further nine such boats are now under construction and should be on service within the next two years. The inshore life-boat fleet of inflatable ILBs has been reinforced by the introduction of the Atlantic 21 ILB with a speed of 28 knots and a night capability. Fifteen of these craft are already on station and a further 15 are under construction.

A training officer has been appointed and training courses with special emphasis on radio procedures have been initiated and will continue with one or more mobile units in the future.

Improved helicopter coverage

I am very glad that the Ministry of Defence has found it possible to allocate Royal Navy Sea King helicopters, based at Culdrose in Cornwall and Prestwick in Scotland for SAR tasks. They have the special characteristics of being able to hover at night under computer control, and can fly far out into the Western Approaches, the Irish Sea and the Atlantic.

Up to now these helicopters, which can rescue up to 12 people at a time, have had other priority tasks and although these continue, nominated aircraft have been put on standby for SAR tasks 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Sea Kings can operate in very difficult weather conditions and on the darkest of nights. Their capability is such that many other nations are buying Sea Kings. Their increased capability for UK SAR represents a very significant improvement to the existing civilian and RN and RAF helicopter cover provided in many other parts of the coast.

We already have a British Airways long-range Sikorski helicopter based at Aberdeen under contract to the Department for SAR duties, and we are considering how this service can provide improved cover to the main centre of North Sea oil exploration.

We are also fortunate in being able to call on the very experienced and well equipped aircraft of the United States Air Force based in Suffolk for SAR cover in the southern half of the North Sea.

Organisation

I have already stressed how much importance we attach to the different units involved in SAR maintaining their own identity. Co-ordination from the centre is provided by the Department of Trade and HM Coastguard, and we have a UK SAR Committee, which brings together representatives of the RNLI, RN, RAF, Post Office, General Council of British Shipping, Trinity House and Royal Yachting Association. There are also two observers from the Republic of Ireland.

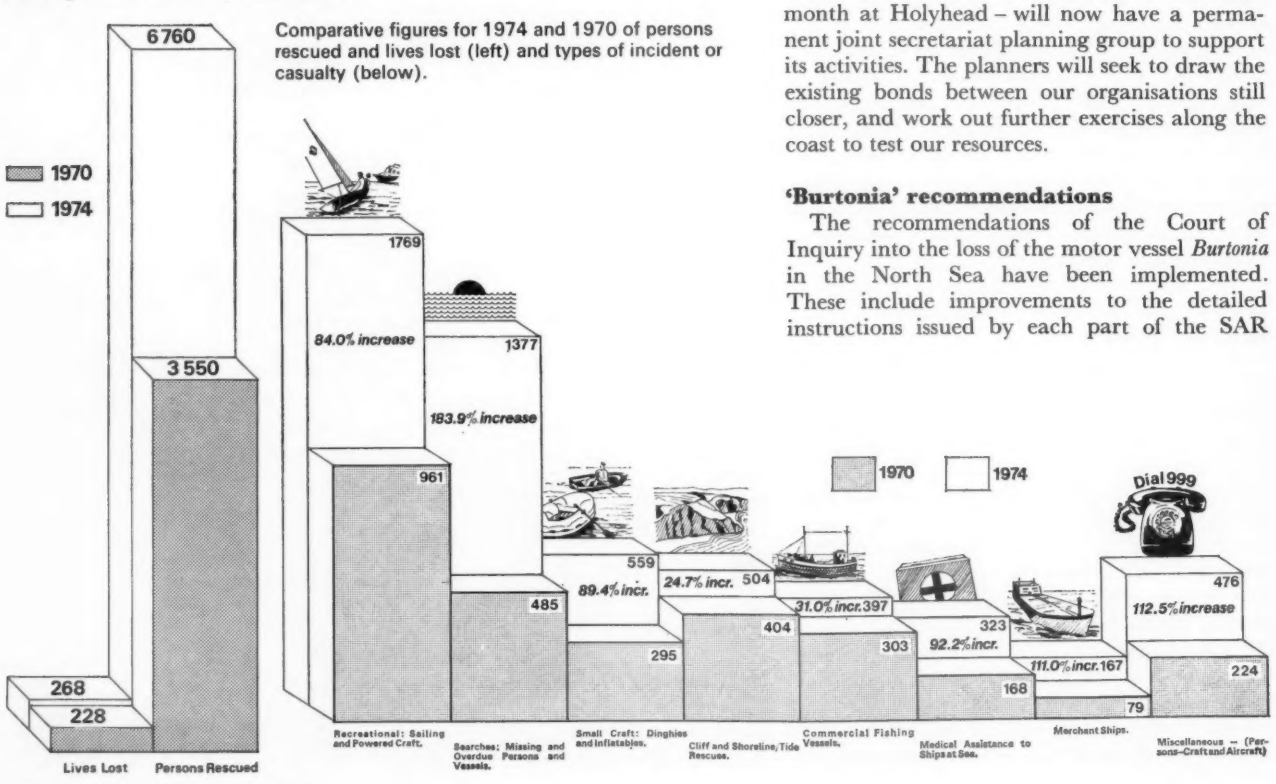
This Committee which is already reviewing SAR facilities around the coast – it met last month at Holyhead – will now have a permanent joint secretariat planning group to support its activities. The planners will seek to draw the existing bonds between our organisations still closer, and work out further exercises along the coast to test our resources.

'Burtonia' recommendations

The recommendations of the Court of Inquiry into the loss of the motor vessel *Burtonia* in the North Sea have been implemented. These include improvements to the detailed instructions issued by each part of the SAR

Coastguard casualty statistics

Comparative figures for 1974 and 1970 of persons rescued and lives lost (left) and types of incident or casualty (below).



organisation, close definition of responsibilities and the facilities available, and improved liaison between Coastguard and coastal radio stations. At the same time, the Coastguard are keeping fully abreast of the latest techniques which may be of assistance in their work. The 350 Coastguard stations have almost complete VHF radio cover of our coasts and islands. A fleet of nearly 200 radio-equipped vehicles provides the means of bringing cliff rescue and breeches buoy equipment to the scene of an incident. A high standard of training is achieved at the Brixham Training School for Coastguards.

All these improvements in support services for people and equipment will be embraced in a formal long-term planning system.

Increase of efficiency

To sum up, I am confident that the improvements already introduced, and future changes still to be implemented, will increase the efficiency of the SAR service still further to the benefit of those who get into danger or difficulty around the coast.

But however prompt the rescue service, however skilled and brave the people who give themselves to it, nothing can remove the responsibility from the master of a ship whether he be the captain of a supertanker or the owner of a pleasure yacht out with his family and friends, for the safety of all those on board.

Despite all the improvements to ships both large and small and their equipment, the sea must still command respect and, especially among those who go to sea for pleasure, a real sense of their own limitations against the elements.

Action on the recommendations of the formal investigation into the loss of MV 'Burtonia'

The Court of Inquiry into the loss of MV *Burtonia* in the North Sea recommended last year that their comments and general observations should be placed before the Committee to Co-ordinate Marine Search and Rescue Arrangements.

The Committee has studied the report of the Court and set in hand action on its recommendations concerning search and rescue as follows:

a *The better defining and understanding of the Coastguard's co-ordinating role.* The co-ordinating role of HM Coastguard and the responsibilities of the various arms of the SAR organisation have been defined by the SAR Committee and are set out in the SAR 'Handbook'. Coastguard Instructions have been rewritten in conjunction with the Post Office and with other arms of the organisation; the functions of co-ordinating stations are fully defined in these instructions.

b *The organisation and manning of CRHQs co-ordinating offshore SAR operations.* New Coastguard Instructions require each Division to nominate a Senior Officer of District Officer grade or above to be available to proceed to the nearest Rescue HQ (a) during periods of high casualty risk (such as gale or storm warning) (b) when a major incident occurs or seems likely. Plans for a reorganisation of HM Coastguard include a concentration of senior staff at new area headquarters which will be responsible for offshore SAR operations.

c *Standardising so far as possible the SAR instructions of each of the authorities and giving consideration to the desirability of a single SAR manual for all authorities.* To produce a single uniform SAR manual of operational procedures for all parts of the SAR organisation is impracticable because of the complexity of the material the manual would have to include. But the new SAR Handbook gives full details of the SAR organisation and Coastguard Instructions have been rewritten in conjunction with the other SAR services whose own instructions are being made compatible so far as possible.

d *Pursuing steps to further the co-operation between the various authorities concerned in SAR.* Liaison between the SAR services has been further improved and the new Coastguard Instructions will standardise existing informal arrangements. Communicators have been instructed to use clear and unambiguous language in all signals; plotting of casualties, including those under way, and vessels giving assistance, particularly lifeboats, is now standard practice at co-ordinating stations; joint training and exercises by the SAR organisation already take place from time to time and their frequency will increase; Coastguard and Coast Radio Stations now exchange records of incidents whenever appropriate.

e *Evaluating the usefulness of the practice of reducing 'Mayday' to 'Pan' and considering the desirability of giving publicity to the practice if it is to continue.* The Court's proposals under this heading have been adopted by the United Kingdom. As from 1 January 1976 revised International Radio Regulations, following an international conference last year, will provide for the circumstances covered by the recommendations.

Note:

The distress signal 'Mayday' indicates that a ship, aircraft or other vehicle is threatened by grave and imminent danger and requests immediate assistance.

The emergency signal 'Pan' indicates that the calling station has a very urgent message to transmit concerning the safety of a ship, aircraft or other vehicle, or the safety of a person.

Publications

The Composer in the Market Place, by Alan Peacock and Ronald Weir. (172 pages. Faber Music. 1975. £5.50. ISBN 0 571 10011 2.) At a time when technology – tapes, radio, records, etc. – has transformed the means whereby the holders of intellectual copyright are recompensed, it is valuable to be reminded of the history of the ways in which composers of music have earned their livelihoods. Musical dissemination has developed with a speed and complexity never envisaged by even so recent an event as the 1956 Copyright Act. The main purpose of this study is to identify the influences on the supply of all types of musical composition, in Britain, during the course of the past 70 years. Its particular value lies in the analysis of the legal, economic and social environments within which music as a commodity has developed. The authority of this work is particularly enhanced by the help and practical support given by the Performing Right Society, which is, incidentally, celebrating its diamond jubilee this year. The five chapters are: the economic characteristics of musical composition; the music market 1900-14; the music market 1914-39; the music market 1939-70 and, finally, the market for musical composition today. A postscript highlights some very recent and important developments in this field. The first is the UK's accession to the Rome Treaty and the consequent implications for performing rights. The next development of significance was the setting up, in August 1973 by the Secretary of State for Trade, of a new committee on copyright law under Mr. Justice Whitford, while the third is the legislation and expansion of local radio facilities. This work will be valuable to both legal and commercial traders and fills a long-waited need.

The Structure of Industry in the EEC: an international comparison, by Kenneth D. George and T. S. Ward. (75 pages. Cambridge University Press. £3. ISBN 0 521 20867 X.) This book is *Occasional Paper 43* from the University of Cambridge Department of Applied Economics. The research was undertaken largely during 1973 and the present study is the first stage of a Social Science Research Council financed project on 'Anti-trust and Industrial Policy: UK and EEC'. It sets out to compare certain aspects of the structure of industry in the UK with those in the other three largest EEC countries, Germany, France and Italy. After summarising the main findings of previous work in this field, the authors proceed to a discussion of industrial concentration ratios and inter-country comparisons of the size of enterprises and plants. This is followed by a detailed examination of the largest companies in the UK and EEC, the dominance by this group of the industrial scene, its composition by country and by industry, and trends in concentration within the group. The final chapter compares the post-war performance of British industry with that of West Germany. Throughout the study the authors concentrate on analysing published statistics, principally those collected in the Censuses of Production and the 1963 EEC Industrial Inquiry.

GATT activities in 1974. (58 pages. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. 1975. Available from HMSO. £1.80. ISBN 0 11 982141 9.) The activities described in this booklet fall into two main sections: the multilateral trade negotiations following on the Tokyo Declaration of September 1973, and other activities. The 'Tokyo Round' of multilateral trade negotiations began in 1974 with comprehensive preparations undertaken by six specialised groups whose tasks corresponded to the six objectives set out in the Tokyo Declaration. This booklet outlines progress on each of these six objectives, viz. tariffs, non-tariff measures, the sectoral approach, the multilateral safeguard system, agricultural products and tropical products. The other activities referred to include the promotion of the trade of developing countries, the Textiles Arrangement, joint action by contracting parties, regional and other special trading arrangements, and action on national measures.

Manpower Services Commission. Annual Report 1974-75. (40 pages. Manpower Services Commission, Stratton House, Stratton Street, Piccadilly, London W1X 6AS. Free.) This, the Commission's first annual report, covers the 15 months from 1 January 1974 to 31 March 1975. Among other topics, the Commission examines policies that affected the labour market both before and after 1974, reports on its first 15 months' work, and enumerates its objectives for the future. The first chapter outlines the development of a full employment policy since 1944, the manpower policies of the last decade, the attempt at national manpower planning in the 1960s, and the development of industrial training and employment services in the UK. A brief second chapter looks at recent developments in the labour market. In the third chapter, the Commission's first 15 months' work is discussed. The first section describes both the activities and objectives of the Training Services Agency. Included here is a programme to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of training; the Industrial Training Board levy exemption schemes; and guidelines prepared by the Commission for the Industrial Training Boards. The second section outlines the development programme for the Employment Service Agency: the modernisation of premises for Job Centres; the improvement of staffing and service; specialist services of occupational guidance and resettlement for the disadvantaged and the disabled; the expansion of the Professional and Executive Recruitment service; and employment rehabilitation centres for preparing people who have suffered injury or unemployment for re-employment. The third section summarises the Commission's contingency planning for countering higher levels of unemployment, while the fourth gives special attention to the manpower requirements for the development of offshore oil. Chapter four outlines the Commission's interpretation of the role it needs to play in a general manpower strategy, and expresses its conviction that only by a radical extension of its role and responsibilities can the Commission give a new dynamic to the development of manpower policies in this country. Annexes to the report give a summary of expenditure, performance indicators for both the Training Services Agency and the Employment Service Agency, together with general economic indicators for 1973-74.

'T & I' index inquiries

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Addresses of ECGD offices

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Central London

London, EC1 to EC4, WC1 and 2, W1 and SW1.

D. G. Hake, Waverley House, 7-12 Noel Street, London W1V 3PB. Tel. 01-437 2292, Telex 24105.

South London

London SE, SW2–20 and W2–14, Kent, Surrey (excluding the administrative district of Spelthorne), East and West Sussex, the eastern part of Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and the Channel Isles.

G. J. A. Link, 320 Purley Way, Croydon, Surrey CR0 4XJ. Tel. 01-686 9921. Telex 946998.

North London

London N, NW, E, the southern parts of Essex, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire, the Slough, Burnham and Datchet area of Berkshire and the Spelthorne district of Surrey.

C. W. Gentry, 593–599 High Road, Tottenham, N17 6SW. Tel. 01-808 4570. Telex 263615.

Belfast

The six counties of Northern Ireland.

R. H. Forsyth, River House, High Street, Belfast BT1 2BE. Tel. 0232 31743. Telex 74577.

Birmingham

Leicester, Nottinghamshire, Salop, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands, the southern part of Derbyshire and that part of Hereford and Worcester formerly known as Worcestershire.

F. Wilmot, Colmore Centre, 115 Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 3SB. Tel. 021-233 1771. Telex 33132

Bristol

Dyfed, Powys, Gwent, West, Mid and South Glamorgan, Gloucester, Avon, Wiltshire, Oxon, Dorset, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall. That part of Hereford and Worcester formerly known as Herefordshire, Berkshire except the Slough, Burnham and Datchet areas and the western part of Hampshire.

K. I. Humphrey, Robinson Building, 1 Redcliffe Street, Bristol BS1 6NP. Tel. 0272 299971. Telex 44248.

Cambridge

Bedfordshire, Cambridge, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Suffolk, the northern parts of Essex, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire, and the southern part of Lincolnshire including the City of Lincoln.

H. Watson, Prudential Building, 59 St. Andrews Street, Cambridge CB2 3HA. Tel. 0223 67736. Telex 81624.

Glasgow

Scotland and the Outer Isles.

F. R. Burge, Fleming House, 134 Renfrew Street, Glasgow G3 6TL. Tel. 041-332 8707. Telex 77130.

Leeds

Durham, Tyne & Wear, Northumberland, Cleveland, North, West and South Yorkshire, Humberside and the northern part of Lincolnshire.

W. Ford, West Riding House, 67 Albion Street, Leeds LS1 5AA. Tel. 0532 450631. Telex 55125.

Manchester

Gwynedd, Clwyd, Cheshire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Cumbria, the northern part of Derbyshire and Isle of Man.

R. H. K. Hughes, Elisabeth House, St. Peter's Square, Manchester M2 4AJ. Tel. 061-228 3621. Telex 667756.

New York

In the United States of America exporters can obtain assistance from the Department's resident Representative for the USA and Canada.

J. K. Sedman c/o British Trade Development Office, 150 East 58th Street, New York 10022 USA. Tel. 212-593 2258. Telex 420543.

Parliament

Monday, 21 June

Index of retail prices

Mr. Toby Jessel (Twickenham) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, by what percentage the cost of living has increased since July 1945.

'The Official Index of Retail Prices was first introduced in June 1947,' answered Mr. Maclennan. 'The rise between that date and June 1975 was 374 per cent.'

Questions on the rise in the Retail Price Index over the last 12 months and the current annual rate of inflation were asked by Mr. Peter Morrison (City of Chester), Mr. Peter Rost (South East Derbyshire), Mr. Jim Lester (Beeston), Mr. Michael Neubert (Havering, Romford) and Mr. John MacGregor (South Norfolk).

Mrs. Williams answered: 'The retail price index for June was 26.1 per cent higher than a year earlier. The change over the three months to June expressed at an annual rate was 48.0 per cent. But this includes the exceptional increase in May which was substantially due to budget changes in indirect taxation and the annual rate based on the June increase alone is 21.9 per cent.'

Mr. Sydney Tierney (Birmingham, Yardley) asked what were the percentage increases in prices during the period 1 July 1974 to 30 June 1975 for electricity, gas, coal, postal charges, telephone charges and public transport.

Mr. Maclennan gave the following figures:

	Percentage change between 18 June 1974 and 17 June 1975
Electricity	+56.6
Gas	+14.0
Coal and coke	+37.4
Postal and telephone charges	+54.3
Rail, bus, etc., fares	+36.0

Mr. H. Boardman (Leigh) asked what was the percentage increase in the index of retail prices in the period March 1974 to May 1975; and what were the increases for the same period for food, electricity, gas, coal, postal charges, telephone charges, and public transport.

Mrs. Williams gave information as follows:

The percentage increases for the Retail Price Index and selected items over the period March 1974 to May 1975 were:

All items	31.1
Food	30.1
Electricity	60.5
Gas	13.9
Coal	40.8
Postal charges	79.2
Telephone charges	38.9
Rail fares	29.9
Bus, etc., fares	36.5

A table was asked for by Mr. Philip Holland (Carlton) to show the rise in the Retail Price Index or its equivalent over the 12-month period to the latest convenient date in the United Kingdom, the USA, Japan and each of the full Member States of the EEC.

Mr. Williams said the percentage increases in the Retail and Consumer Price Indices in the United Kingdom, USA, Japan and full Member States of the EEC over the 12 months to May 1975 were:

UK	25.0
USA	9.5
Japan	14.1
Belgium	13.7
Denmark	12.0
France	12.1
Germany	6.1
Ireland	24.5
Italy	19.7
Luxembourg	10.1
Netherlands	10.4

Source: OECD.

'What has been the beneficial impact,' asked Mr. John Biffen (Oswestry) 'of the green pound calculation of the Common Agricultural Policy for farm prices upon the Retail Price Index'?

'The "green pound" system reduces the price in the UK of most important foodstuffs, including cereals, beef, dairy products, bacon and other pigmeat products,' answered Mrs. Williams. 'It reduces farmers' incomes correspondingly and adjustments to the rate have to balance the interests of producer and consumer.

'The present gap between the green pound and the market rate for sterling is about 19 per cent though the figure fluctuates according to the value of the pound. There can be no precise estimate of the effect on retail prices because many other factors are involved. If the gap were completely closed, and the UK guaranteed price for milk were adjusted correspondingly, the eventual effect on the Retail Food Index might probably be in the order of 4-5 per cent, and on the Retail Price Index about 1-1¼ per cent.' *(See also page 298.)*

Mr. Norman Tebbit (Waltham Forest, Chingford) and Mr. David Lane (Cambridge) asked for estimates of the increase in the Retail Price Index during the next 12 months.

Mrs. Williams replied: 'The Government is determined to bring the rate of inflation down to 10 per cent by the third quarter of 1976. It is not possible to forecast precisely the behaviour of the retail price index within that period but while the annual rate of inflation is likely to remain high for the rest of this year, the monthly rate this winter should not be much above 1 per cent reflecting lower pay and commodity prices.'

Food prices

Mr. Tierney wanted to know the percentage increase in the index of retail prices in the period 1 July 1974 to 30 June 1975 and the percentage increase in food prices over the same period.

Mr. Maclennan told him that between 18 June 1974 and 17 June 1975 the retail price index increased by 26.1 per cent and the Food Index by 28.3 per cent.

Mr. Dennis Canavan (West Stirlingshire) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection would take further measures to control the price of food, and Mr. Stan Thorne (Preston South) asked if she would introduce proposals to freeze all prices of food and other essentials.

Mrs. Williams said: 'The White Paper on the Attack on Inflation made it clear that the present price control already ensures that a lower rate of increase in pay is reflected in a lower rate of price increase, and that the Government do not intend to push price control to the point where it would endanger employment and investment. Further action will be taken as soon as it is clear that the new pay limit is being effectively observed.'

Mr. Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington) asked for a list of those Western countries which

Ministers at the Department of Industry

Secretary of State for Industry: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Lord Beswick
Gregor MacKenzie
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Gerald Kaufman

Ministers at the Department of Trade

Secretary of State for Trade: Peter Shore
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Eric Deakins
Stanley Clinton Davis

Ministers at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection: Shirley Williams
Minister of State: Alan Williams
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

have a higher rate of increase of food prices than that presently pertaining in the UK.

Mr. Williams gave the following information:

PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN FOOD PRICES IN THE 12 MONTHS TO:

	November 1974	February 1975	May 1975
Iceland (a)	+51.2	+56.9	+39.2
Ireland (a)	+20.2	+22.7	+28.0
Portugal	+37.0	+28.8	..

(a) Quarterly indices.
.. = Not available.

Food subsidies

'*Will the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection now phase out the bread subsidy and establish a real price for bread?*' *asked Mr. Nicholas Ridley* (*Cirencester and Tewkesbury*).

'Bread is a basic foodstuff of particular importance to poorer families, and I have no intention of phasing out the subsidy in the immediate future.'

Mr. W. W. Hamilton (*Central Fife*) *inquired about the present subsidy on the price of liquid milk; and whether price control on this commodity would be maintained.*

Mr. Maclennan answered that the subsidy on liquid milk is estimated to amount to £270 million in the current financial year, equivalent to about 2p per pint. 'The price of milk has been controlled since 1940 and we have no intention of changing the position,' he added.

Questions on the cost of food subsidies were asked by Mr. Ian Gow (*Eastbourne*) *and Mr. Tim Renton.*

Mr. Maclennan answered: 'The estimated cost of food subsidies during the current financial year is about £550 million. As stated in the White Paper "Attack on Inflation" the planned run down in the programme next year will be moderated.'

Price of potatoes

Mr. Edwin Wainwright (*Dearne Valley*) *asked what was the average price of potatoes per ton in January and March 1975; what is the present price; and what action is being taken 'to prevent the huge profiteering because of the present shortage'.*

Mr. Maclennan replied: 'Wholesale prices for potatoes were quoted at between £30 and £52 per ton in January 1975 and between £28 and £48 per ton in March 1975. Wholesale prices are now between £95 and £130 per ton. The recent shortage has been mainly due to the exceptionally dry weather, which has seriously delayed the crop and reduced current yields. Following recent rain, prices have now started to come down.

'The Price Commission keeps a running check on prices and distribution margins for fresh foods and makes regular reports and I have asked them to monitor the wholesale and retail prices of potatoes margins.

'If my Hon. Friend has evidence of profiteering I shall be glad to look into it.'

Cost of restaurant meals

Mr. John Osborn (*Sheffield, Hallam*) *asked what is now the index or average cost per meal for eating out in the London area, in the provinces and in the country as a whole, respectively; and how this compares with comparative indices of costs for 1 April 1975, 1944 and 1970.*

Mr. Maclennan replied: 'Information collected for the General Index of Retail Prices shows that in May 1975 the cost of meals in restaurants and cafes was 2 per cent, 24 per cent and 117 per cent higher than in April 1975, April 1974 and April 1970, respectively. No comparable information is available on a regional basis.'

Price Code

Mr. James Tinn (*Teesside, Redcar*) *asked for details of the Government's proposals for amending the Price Code in the light of the White Paper, 'The Attack on Inflation'.*

Mrs. Williams said: 'I have today issued a consultative document in accordance with the statutory requirement to consult interested parties before making an order to amend the Price Code. The consultative document is available in the Vote Office of the House of Commons.'

Mr. Geoffrey Dodsworth (*South West Hertfordshire*) *asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection about discussions with the CBI on amendments to the Price Code.*

'I met the CBI on several occasions during the discussions leading up to the White Paper "The Attack on Inflation",' said Mrs. Williams. 'These discussions covered the question of amending the Price Code to prevent excessive pay settlements being reflected in higher prices. With other interested parties, the CBI have now been invited to comment on the details of the Code amendments.'

Mr. Norman Lamont (*Kingston upon Thames*) *asked Mrs. Williams to state what action she intends to take on the expiry of the Price Code in March 1976.*

Mrs. Williams said: 'The Remuneration, Charges and Grants Bill provides for the Price Code to be extended beyond March 1976. This does not exclude the possibility of taking further new powers beyond those being included in the present Bill, nor of amending the present Price Code.'

Prices in licensed premises

Mr. Marcus Lipton (*Lambeth Central*) *asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, by what date she intends to ensure that the prices charged in licensed premises are clearly displayed to the customer.*

'I expect the necessary measures to be in force before Christmas,' said Mr. Williams.'

Safety on consumer products

Mr. David Crouch (*Canterbury*) *asked for a statement on proposals for improving the safety of consumer products.*

Mr. Williams said: 'I am currently reviewing our powers in this area and propose to issue a consultative document as a result. Meanwhile my Department is preparing further regulations under the Consumer Protection Act 1961.'

Packaging

Mr. Gwilym Roberts (*Cannock*) *asked what study has been made of the packaging of goods; and if regulations would be laid down on the needs and limitations of packaging.*

'I wrote to consumer organisations in March about over-packaging and I have asked the Waste Management Advisory Council to consider their views,' said Mr. Maclennan. 'The Council set up by the Government is examining all aspects of packaging and is giving priority to an examination of any extravagant use of materials in retail packaging.'

Code of practice for motor industry

Mr. Andrew Faulds (*Warley East*) *asked for a statement on the code of practice suggested by the Office of Fair Trading to the Society of Motor Manufacturers to set new standards for the sale of new and used vehicles and repairs and servicing.*

Mr. Williams said: 'I welcome the joint announcement by the Office of Fair Trading and the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders on 30 June to the effect that the SMMT has accepted in principle that it should prepare for adoption a draft code of practice for the motor industry. If my Hon. Friend wishes to have further details of the proposals, I am sure that the Director General of Fair Trading would be glad to send them to him.'

Estate agents

Mr. Ioan Evans (*Aberdare*) *asked about plans for the regulation of the services of estate agents in the interest of the consumer.*

Mr. Williams answered: 'I am preparing a consultative document which will invite public comments on proposals designed to give further protection to consumers in this area.'

Consumer councils for nationalised industries

Mr. Frank Hooley (*Sheffield, Heeley*) *asked by what date the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection would assume responsibility for the consumer councils of the gas and electricity supply industries.*

Mr. Williams replied: 'The Department assumed responsibility for the appointment of the members of the nationalised industry consumer councils, other than the Scottish Electricity Consultative Councils, on 1 February 1975. When the Statutory Corporations (Financial Provisions) Bill receives the Royal Assent, the financing of these Councils will also pass from the industries to the Government.'

Mr. John Wakeham (*Maldon*) *asked what steps are taken under the responsibility of the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection to protect the consumer in relation to services and products provided by the nationalised industries.*

'We keep in close touch with the Departments responsible for the nationalised industries on all matters affecting consumers,' said Mr. Williams. 'Members of the nationalised industry consumer councils are now appointed by my Department. We have asked the National Consumer Council to review the present arrangements for consumer representation in the nationalised industries and will consider any recommendations which the Council may make for strengthening the protection of the consumer.'

Discussions with TUC

Mr. Cyril D. Townsend (*Bexley, Bexleyheath*) *asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, what aspects of prices and consumer affairs have featured in her recent discussions with the TUC.*

Mrs. Williams said: 'I have discussed with the TUC those aspects covered in their statement "The Development of the Social Contract" which was adopted by the TUC General Council on 9 July.'

Parliament continued

Asbestos

Mrs. Joyce Butler (Haringey, Wood Green) asked if regulations would be introduced making the labelling of do-it-yourself products containing asbestos mandatory, so that the asbestos content is clearly indicated, and a warning of the danger of dust inhalation given.

Mr. Maclennan answered: 'I will certainly consider doing so if the consultations my Department is currently holding with the Asbestosis Research Council do not lead to the introduction of a satisfactory voluntary labelling scheme.'

Civil service salaries

Mr. Arthur Lewis (Newham North West) asked for details of the five top paid civil servants in the Department of Industry; what salaries they now receive; what they were receiving in January 1972; and what increases they have received on the stated dates since January 1972.

Mr. Kaufman gave details of the salaries of these grades from 1 January 1972 onwards as follows:

	1 January 1972	1 April 1973	1 January 1974	1 January 1975
	£	£	£	£
Permanent Secretary	15,750	16,000	16,350	18,675
Second Permanent Secretary	14,750	15,000	15,350	17,175
Deputy Secretary	10,500	10,750	11,100	14,000

From June 1974 the salaries attracted cost of living supplements until these were subsumed in the increased salaries payable from 1 January 1975.

Mr. Lewis also asked for details of persons employed in the Department of Trade in January at salaries around £4,500 per annum and the increases they have received to date.

Mr. Deakins replied that the Department of Trade formed part of the Department of Trade and Industry in 1972. He gave a table showing details of staff currently employed in the Department of Trade in grades with a salary scale which in 1972 included £4,500:

Grade	Number of staff in grade	Salary scale 1 January 1972	Salary scale 1 April 1975
		£	£
Principals (and Principal Information Officers)	155	3,478-4,708	5,680-7,450
Official Receivers (B) (and equivalent Insolvency Service grades)	46	3,478-4,814	5,680-7,599
Senior Marine Surveyors	111	3,788-4,760	6,280-7,450
Principal Professional and Technology Officers	3	4,010-4,760	6,280-7,450
Senior Patent Examiners	263	3,292-5,350	6,125-8,750

Oil pollution

Mr. Anthony Kershaw (Stroud) asked what consultations had taken place between the Secretary of State for Industry and foreign Governments and international groups or bodies before he authorised the present oil pollution experiments in the North Sea in the area 59°N.-1°E., and between the Faroes and Norway.

'Consultations took place with representatives of the Norwegian Government, and a Norwegian observer is present at the experiments,' said Mr. Kaufman.

Mr. Kershaw, Sir John Gilmour (East Fife) and Miss Janet Fookes (Plymouth, Drake) asked about precautions to ensure that the oil pollution experiments do not harm birds and wildlife.

'On the advice of the Nature Conservancy Council no oil is to be released near any sea bird concentrations,' said Mr. Kaufman. 'If reconnaisance, either by ship or helicopter, reveals such concentrations, the officer in charge will not release oil, or if it has been released, immediate steps will be taken to collect or disperse it.'

Concorde

Mr. Michael McNair-Wilson (Newbury) asked for a statement about the recent route proving flights of Concorde to the Middle East.

Mr. Kaufman said: 'The Concorde flights between London and Bahrain which took place from 7 to 12 July were part of the first stage of the programme of endurance flying by the fourth production aircraft. These repeated flights simulate ordinary airline operation and their satisfactory completion will enable Concorde to be fully certified for the carrying of fare paying passengers.'

Post Office advertising

Mr. Bryan Gould (Southampton, Test) asked how much the Post Office spent on advertising in the last available year.

Mr. MacKenzie said: 'The Post Office tell me that they spent £2.4 million in the year 1974/75 on customer information, advertising their service and facilities available and to promote recruitment.'

Ferrous foundry industry

Mr. Geoff Edge (Aldridge-Brownhills) asked if the Secretary of State for Industry would take steps to encourage the modernisation of the ferrous foundry industry.

Mr. Kaufman reminded him that the Chancellor announced in his Budget Speech on 15 April the intention to introduce a scheme of financial assistance to encourage the modernisation of the ferrous foundry industry. The Secretary of State for Industry would make a more detailed statement about this shortly.

Steel

Mr. Nicholas Edwards (Pembroke) wanted to know the total of steel imported, as a percentage of total United Kingdom annual consumption.

Mr. Kaufman replied: 'The percentage of imports to UK consumption varies cyclically, and has recently been abnormally high. Since 1970 the annual percentages are estimated to have been: 1970 – 12 per cent; 1971 – 13 per cent; 1972 – 16 per cent; 1973 – 14 per cent; 1974 – 21 per cent. During the first three months of 1975, the percentage is estimated to be 24 per cent.

Mr. Edwards also asked for the cost of production of steel (in major type categories) per tonne per BSC plant as compared with European and Japanese competitors.

Mr. Kaufman said: 'Information on cost of production is not available. A paper prepared by the British Steel Corporation on Comparative Labour Productivity was placed in the Library of the House last month. This paper gives some broad international comparisons of man hours per tonne of steel produced.'

Energy conservation

Mr. Robert Woof (Blaydon) asked for a list of the most recent gains of efficiency in the use and conservation of energy following technological changes in industry.

'Few comprehensive data are available on gains in energy efficiency brought about by technological change and the use of improved materials,' answered Mr. Kaufman. 'I can therefore only give a few examples.

'It is, for example, felt that by closer monitoring and control, 2 per cent savings in refinery fuel costs can be achieved. Similarly, recent changes in the design of heat exchangers and steam-condensate valves have permitted substantial energy savings to be made. Replacement of old ethylene cracking furnaces by more efficient ones and the use of flare gas recovery will also reduce operating costs considerably through energy saving. In the metallurgical field, improved natural gas burners and ceramic recuperators have also produced energy savings in steel making and the use of divided blast furnace systems have also increased output efficiency.

'However in order to understand more systematically the current pattern of energy usage, the Departments of Energy and Industry are jointly developing energy auditing techniques, as part of a broader energy conservation programme. This should enable a more useful assessment to be made of the potential effects of technological change including those relating to the use of new and improved materials.'

Merseyside

Mr. Eddie Loyden (Liverpool, Garston) asked what steps the Secretary of State for Industry is considering to deal with high unemployment on Merseyside.

Mr. MacKenzie replied: 'In addition to the full range of financial incentives available under the Industry Act of 1972, we expect that Merseyside, like other Assisted Areas, will benefit substantially from the setting up of the National Enterprise Board and the Planning Agreements system. The Government are also taking powers under the Employment Protection Bill to mitigate the effect of future redundancies.'

Mr. Robert Kilroy-Silk (Ormskirk) wanted to know the total amount of land purchased by the Department of Industry for future development on Merseyside; where it is situated; what is to be

developed there; and how many jobs it is expected to provide.

Mr. MacKenzie said: 'My Department has acquired a 21 acre site at Gillmoss which will be available both for advance factories and for factories built to industrialists' specific requirements. I cannot yet say how many jobs can be expected to be provided. It is hoped to acquire a site at Speke this year and further land will be bought as funds permit.'

Exercise 'Tadpole'

Mr. George Reid (Clackmannan and East Stirlingshire) asked for a statement on the objectives of, and lessons learned from Exercise 'Tadpole' held in the Clyde.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'Exercise "Tadpole", which took place on 29 May was one of a series of exercises held around British coasts to test the Department's pollution clearance organisation.

'The objectives of this exercise off Ardrossan were:

a to test the effectiveness of the organisation and contingency plans in the West of Scotland District;
b to assess the effectiveness of liaison with the Royal Navy and other organisations;
c to test communications;
d to assess the time taken getting a team of tugs to the scene of an incident.

The lessons learnt were that the organisation can effectively deal with an incident within reasonable reach of Greenock. Bearing in mind the time taken to get commercial tugs equipped and ready for sea, further bases already contemplated need to be brought into being for incidents further away. Liaison with the Royal Navy was such that a fleet of four naval tugs and four commercial tugs worked well under one command. Communications presented some minor problems. Lessons learnt which are of general applications will be disseminated to other Districts.'

Questions were also asked by Mr. Reid on stocks of dispersants and spraying kits held at Scottish ports to deal with any major pollution incident and on the number of vessels, based at Scottish ports, adapted for an oil dispersal role.

Mr. Clinton Davis said: 'The following information on stocks and equipment held, and vessels identified, by the Department does not take account of the resources of industry, with whom my Department is in close liaison.

	Commercial tugs identified as suitable for spraying	Sets of spraying equipment	Stocks of dispersant (gallons)
Leith	1	1	6,500
Dundee	1	1	4,500
Aberdeen	2	2	4,500
Invergordon	1	1	4,500
Pumpherston			4,250
Greenock	11	5	14,000

Notes:
(i) In addition HMS *Jura* is permanently equipped for spraying with 6,000 gallons on board, as are Fisheries Protection Vessels *Switha* and *Westra*, the latter with 7,500 gallons of the recently approved dilutable variety. Two Greenock tugs also carry stocks in their tanks.
(ii) Provision of storage space at Aberdeen is in hand, and the Department has interim arrangements for supply from other sources in an emergency.
(iii) The location of stocks is kept under review, and particular attention is currently being given to the needs of West Scotland, and of the Orkney and Shetland Islands.
(iv) The Department of Trade is also able to call upon general resources of the Royal Navy.

Aircraft noise

Mr. Robin F. Cook (Edinburgh Central) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade has completed the review on whether Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow airports should be designated under Section 29 of the Civil Aviation Act 1971, for the purposes of noise abatement.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'The review has been completed after taking account of the views which have been expressed to me by those concerned. The British Airports Authority, who are now the owners and managers of these three airports, are able and willing to bring into operation appropriate noise abatement measures, including the provision of grants for the noise insulation of dwellings. I have, therefore, concluded that, at the present time, there would be no advantage to be gained by the designation of these airports under Section 29. The Authority will, of course, act in co-operation with the Civil Aviation Authority and the airline operators concerned, and will shortly announce the measures they propose to adopt.'

Mr. Sydney Tierney asked if the Secretary of State for Trade, in his consultations with the West Midlands County Council Airport Committee, has been able to establish what progress has been made towards instituting a noise insulation grants scheme.

Mr. Clinton Davis said: 'I am informed that the local legislation, to which I referred in answer to my Hon. Friend's previous Question on this subject on 2 July, is under active consideration by the West Midlands County Council, who hope that the Private Bill incorporating provision for making noise insulation grants to householders in the vicinity of Birmingham Airport will be read in Parliament before the end of this year.'

Textile imports

Mr. Adam Butler (Bosworth) asked for details of the agreement on textile imports from Pakistan recently initialled under the MFA, and of the Community arrangements on restricting imports from Taiwan.

Mr. Deakins answered: 'Details of the Agreement with Pakistan cannot be given until the Agreement has been formally concluded. A Council Regulation on Community restraints of imports from Taiwan was adopted on 10 July and details will be published shortly in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. A further Regulation is in preparation which will prescribe the annual growth rates for restrained imports from Taiwan under the burden-sharing formula.'

Textile exports to Australia

Mr. George Cunningham (Islington, South and Finsbury) asked if any representations have been made to the Australian authorities in protest against the 40 per cent initial duty and additional duty of 0.30 Australian dollars per square metre on certain specialised silk linings exported from the UK.

Mr. Deakins answered: 'The EEC Commission has made representations about Australian tariff measures covering a wide range of textile products and has requested formal consultations with the Australian Government under the GATT Multifibre Arrangements.'

Underwater welding

Mr. Peter Viggers (Gosport) inquired about the total amount to the latest convenient date of aid or financial support given by HM Government to British companies involved in research and development of underwater welding.

Mr. John Smith, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Energy, said: 'Current Government financial support to individual British companies in aid of research in underwater welding amounts to £150,000. In addition Government contracts with Research Associations for the benefit of British companies generally amount to about £80,000.'

Mr. Viggers also asked for a statement on the operation of the liaison between the Offshore Supplies Office and other Government departments on the subject of research and development projects for underwater welding.

Mr. Smith said: 'There is regular day-to-day contact between the Offshore Supplies Office and other Government departments, outside bodies, etc, on research and development in underwater welding. The formal link, however, is the Underwater Welding and Cutting Working Party which is a sub-group of the Marine Materials Panel of the Ship and Marine Technology Requirements Board.

The members of the Working Party are:

G. P. Smedley – Lloyds Register of Shipping (Chairman)
H. C. Cotton – British Petroleum
D. B. J. Thomas – British Petroleum
J. Craston – Department of Energy
J. H. Rendall – Department of Energy
K. F. Paddock – Department of Energy
A. R. Moss – Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment
P. F. Payne – Admiralty Experimental Diving Unit
K. R. Haig – Admiralty Experimental Diving Unit
Dr. J. R. Salter – Welding Institute
W. H. Winn – Naval Construction Research Establishment
Dr. D. W. Kirkley – British Oxygen Co.
D. G. Jenkins – Lloyds Register of Shipping (Secretary)

The terms of reference of the Working Party are:

1 To determine the problems of making reliable strength welds underwater;
2 To study processes and procedures proposed for the welding underwater of steel structures and pipelines; and
3 To investigate properties of welds made at depths encountered in the North Sea, and to determine the processes and techniques which will permit the achievement of sound and reliable welds for initial construction and repairs.

Mr. Viggers asked what facilities the Govern-

ment own or control for research into and development of underwater technology.

Mr. Smith said: 'The more important facilities owned or controlled by the Government for research and development in underwater technology are:

National Engineering Laboratory, Department of Industry: large fatigue test facilities and other mechanical test equipment; fluid machinery testing.
National Physical Laboratory, Department of Industry: ship testing tanks, wind tunnels; coastal test laboratory (Hythe, Hants).
Warren Spring Laboratory, Department of Industry: rigs for simulation of ship motion.
Building Research Establishment, Department of the Environment: seabed soil-testing facilities.
Hydraulic Research Station, Department of the Environment: test tanks with wave-making facilities.
Institute of Geological Sciences, Natural Environment Research Council: shipboard and laboratory facilities, unmanned submersibles.
Institute of Oceanographic Sciences, Natural Environment Research Council: shipboard and laboratory facilities.

'In addition various establishments of the Ministry of Defence possess a wide range of facilities relevant to research on underwater technology. These include:

High pressure diving chambers at the Deep Trials Unit and the Royal Naval Physiological Laboratory at Alverstoke.
Diving tank at the Admiralty Experimental Diving Unit, HMS *Vernon*.
High pressure test facilities at the Admiralty Underwater Weapons Establishment at Portland and the Naval Construction Research Establishment at Dunfermline.
The structural test frames at Dunfermline.
Hydrodynamic tank facilities at the Admiralty Research Laboratory, Teddington.
The Admiralty Experimental Works at Haslar.'

Tuesday, 22 July

Trade with Middle East oil producing countries

Mr. James Sillars (South Ayrshire) asked for a statement and figures to show the progress of Great Britain's export achievements in Iran and other Middle East oil producing countries.

Mr. Deakins replied: 'I am encouraged by the general signs of recent improvement in our export performance in the markets for which information is presented below. Data for Bahrain and Oman is not available in the time permitted.'

IRAN IMPORTS FROM — US $ million

	UK	Germany	France	Italy	USA	Japan
1970	159.24	321.60	67.32	82.44	326.40	178.80
1971	191.64	367.56	91.56	121.44	481.56	237.48
Percentage change	20.3	14.3	36.0	47.3	47.5	32.8
1972	290.52	412.56	121.32	144.12	558.48	321.72
Percentage change	51.6	12.2	32.5	18.7	16.0	35.5
1973	414.24	719.52	204.24	177.12	771.48	484.20
Percentage change	42.6	74.4	68.3	22.9	38.1	50.5
1974	653.52	1,139.16	257.40	282.24	1,733.64	1,014.24
Percentage change	57.8	58.3	26.0	59.3	124.7	109.5
1973 1st quarter	84.30	134.43	39.30	23.43	185.34	98.25
2nd quarter	96.15	144.21	54.45	44.73	189.42	104.91
3rd quarter	126.78	218.88	51.99	55.11	172.98	122.97
4th quarter	105.69	221.82	58.47	53.88	223.77	160.29
1974 1st quarter	92.07	213.18	49.89	48.00	236.55	149.28
2nd quarter	148.65	258.63	57.60	58.50	345.72	216.00
3rd quarter	179.37	288.54	68.64	91.23	451.53	287.01
4th quarter	208.71	380.58	81.27	84.45	700.44	361.95
1975 1st quarter	237.24	373.11	125.58	100.02	745.14	
Latest available quarter percentage change on same quarter of previous year	157.6	75.0	151.7	108.4	215.0	125.8

Source: OECD series A

QATAR IMPORTS FROM — US $ million

	UK	Germany	France	Italy	USA	Japan
1970	17.8	3.5	2.4	1.5	7.2	5.2
1971	37.7	6.9	2.4	5.3	9.5	8.8
Percentage change	111.8	97.1	nil	253.3	31.9	69.2
1972	32.0	7.8	9.4	3.4	13.5	16.2
Percentage change	−15.1	13.0	291.7	−35.8	42.1	84.1
1973	47.7	10.4	8.4	4.5	18.9	19.7
Percentage change	49.1	33.3	−10.6	32.4	40.0	21.6
1974	51.6	23.1	9.4	10.9	34.0	46.6
Percentage change	8.2	122.1	11.9	142.2	79.9	136.5
1973 1st quarter	9.4	2.2	1.2	0.8	4.2	4.5
2nd quarter	13.1	2.7	2.4	1.1	4.7	5.8
3rd quarter	14.1	2.4	3.3	1.1	5.2	4.5
4th quarter	11.1	3.1	1.5	1.5	4.8	4.9
1974 1st quarter	9.0	2.7	2.1	3.1	7.4	5.1
2nd quarter	9.9	4.3	2.3	2.0	9.2	12.7
3rd quarter	13.2	8.7	1.8	2.1	10.8	15.7
4th quarter	19.5	7.4	3.2	3.7	6.6	13.1
1975 1st quarter						
Latest available quarter percentage change on same quarter of previous year	75.7	138.7	113.3	146.7	37.5	167.3

Source: OECD series A

IRAQ IMPORTS FROM — US $ million

	UK	Germany	France	Italy	USA	Japan
1970	57.12	19.20	35.16	15.36	22.20	15.96
1971	60.60	29.52	47.16	25.56	32.28	24.60
Percentage change	6.1	53.8	34.1	66.4	45.4	54.1
1972	66.84	32.40	73.68	31.56	23.28	31.08
Percentage change	10.3	9.8	56.2	23.5	−27.9	26.3
1973	66.24	42.84	83.28	31.68	55.92	49.08
Percentage change	−0.9	32.2	13.0	0.4	140.2	57.9
1974	142.95	373.32	214.20	95.88	284.76	474.36
Percentage change	115.8	771.4	157.2	202.7	409.2	866.5
1973 1st quarter	17.76	7.17	22.02	5.19	6.21	5.88
2nd quarter	16.71	10.17	18.84	6.39	6.69	12.51
3rd quarter	15.99	10 11	19.05	10.11	17.31	13.20
4th quarter	15.15	15.33	23.37	9.96	25.71	17.55
1974 1st quarter	25.62	27.99	40.47	15.51	39.04	25.14
2nd quarter	25.62	48.21	59.76	21.81	33.36	87.36
3rd quarter	43.26	72.18	49.65	24.06	100.47	145.11
4th quarter	48.45	225.06	64.32	34.50	111.87	216.81
1975 1st quarter	64.71	294.15	84.66	56.28	89.07	
Latest available quarter percentage change on same quarter of previous year	152.6	950.9	109.2	262.9	128.2	1,135.4

Source: OECD series A

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES IMPORTS FROM — US $ million

	UK	Germany	France	Italy	USA	Japan
1970	58.9	—	—	—	37.6	31.7
1971	63.9	—	—	—	49.9	53.8
Percentage change	8.5				32.7	69.7
1972	77.7	13.7	5.2	4.3	69.2	96.4
Percentage change	21.6				38.7	79.2
1973	121.5	28.2	103.6	15.7	121.1	162.0
Percentage change	56.4	105.8	1,892.3	265.1	75.0	68.0
1974	227.0	90.0	68.8	37.0	230.0	308.6
Percentage change	86.8	219.1	−33.6	135.7	89.9	90.5
1973 1st quarter	22.0	5.6	2.8	1.8	23.8	29.6
2nd quarter	37.0	7.1	58.4	3.2	23.8	42.9
3rd quarter	29.9	7.7	10.7	4.2	28.7	39.0
4th quarter	32.6	7.8	31.7	6.5	44.8	50.5
1974 1st quarter	31.6	12.3	18.3	6.1	56.2	54.0
2nd quarter	51.0	20.1	23.6	5.9	52.3	75.3
3rd quarter	63.0	36.0	10.4	9.5	61.1	90.0
4th quarter	81.4	32.9	16.5	15.5	60.4	89.3
1975 1st quarter						
Latest available quarter percentage change on same quarter of previous year	149.7	321.8	−47.9	138.5	34.8	76.8

Source: OECD series A

SAUDI ARABIA IMPORTS FROM — US $ million

	UK	Germany	France	Italy	USA	Japan
1970	84.60	65.04	33.72	34.68	140.76	83.76
1971	94.92	54.36	37.08	41.64	164.04	134.28
Percentage change	12.2	−16.4	10.0	20.1	16.5	60.3
1972	112.68	81.60	50.64	53.76	314.16	237.84
Percentage change	18.7	50.1	36.6	29.1	91.5	77.1
1973	142.92	126.00	56.04	77.76	441.96	388.80
Percentage change	26.8	54.4	10.7	44.6	40.7	63.5
1974	280.92	285.96	120.12	133.32	835.20	677.28
Percentage change	96.6	127.0	114.3	71.5	89.0	74.2
1973 1st quarter	29.73	25.47	11.70	11.01	100.44	81.03
2nd quarter	38.79	27.93	11.22	19.35	101.28	104.76
3rd quarter	35.49	34.20	11.43	18.66	103.89	103.44
4th quarter	39.21	38.46	21.69	28.71	136.35	99.81
1974 1st quarter	52.47	46.95	21.12	22.77	138.39	99.45
2nd quarter	73.74	67.53	30.21	38.13	214.44	146.07
3rd quarter	72.24	79.74	34.77	35.10	229.23	181.26
4th quarter	83.91	91.65	33.99	37.35	253.05	250.47
1975 1st quarter	86.73	105.03	40.53	53.28	273.12	
Latest available quarter percentage change on same quarter of previous year	65.3	123.7	91.9	134.0	97.4	150.9

Source: OECD series A

ALGERIA IMPORTS FROM — US $ million

	UK	Germany	France	Italy	USA	Japan
1970	40.32	99.00	562.44	93.60	61.80	20.16
1971	67.80	125.04	498.96	104.04	82.20	42.00
Percentage change	68.2	26.3	−11.3	11.2	33.0	108.3
1972	84.60	221.04	466.44	159.36	97.68	23.28
Percentage change	24.8	76.8	−6.5	53.2	18.8	−44.6
1973	92.40	312.00	753.72	177.48	160.56	50.76
Percentage change	9.2	41.2	61.6	11.4	64.4	118.0
1974	128.16	482.88	1,296.48	325.44	315.12	154.44
Percentage change	38.7	54.8	72.0	83.4	96.3	204.3
1973 1st quarter	23.91	60.93	152.19	33.24	30.06	6.60
2nd quarter	22.62	86.28	195.90	46.83	41.79	8.04
3rd quarter	19.77	81.39	206.28	45.84	36.81	16.02
4th quarter	25.83	83.43	199.32	51.60	51.90	20.10
1974 1st quarter	26.40	82.77	212.31	51.03	85.14	21.03
2nd quarter	28.33	102.69	277.41	60.57	67.38	34.65
3rd quarter	41.79	133.68	354.90	99.30	64.32	35.07
4th quarter	32.19	163.08	451.89	114.54	98.28	63.99
1975 1st quarter	45.69	145.74	529.46	98.70	124.64	
Latest available quarter percentage change on same quarter of previous year	73.1	76.1	149.4	93.4	46.4	218.4

Source: OECD series A

Further tables appear overleaf

Shipbuilding companies

Mr. Gordon A. T. Bagier (Sunderland South) asked if the Secretary of State for Industry would place copies of the accounts for Appledore Ship Builders Ltd., Sunderland Ship Builders Ltd. and North East Coast Ship Repairers Ltd., for the year ended 30 September 1974, in the Library of the House.

Mr. Kaufman said: 'A copy of the accounts of these companies for the year to 30 September 1974 will be lodged in the normal way with the Registrar of Companies, but for the convenience of Members, I have arranged for copies to be placed in the Library of both Houses.'

Export documentation

Mr. Ron Thomas (Bristol North West) spoke of the under-recording of export figures since the autumn of 1973, referred to in the Press Notice issued jointly by the Central Statistical Office and the Department of Trade on 14 July (see Trade and Industry, *18 July, page 185), and asked if the Secretary of State for Trade would take action to improve the monitoring of export documentation and the lodgment of documents.*

Mr. Deakins said: 'Action on both these aspects is being taken by HM Customs and Excise who are responsible for the compilation of the export statistics. The results of the monitoring of export documentation now extend up to the beginning of 1975 – the Press Notice reference was not as up-to-date as it could have been – and confirm the continuation of a short-fall averaging about half of one per cent throughout 1974. The response of exporters to the action taken by HM Customs and Excise will, it is hoped, improve the lodgment of documents and be reflected in the results of the continuing monitoring.'

Chestnut palings

Mr. Patrick Mayhew (Royal Tunbridge Wells) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade, is satisfied that imported chestnut palings and spikes from France are produced without the advantage of a subsidy from the French Government, hidden or otherwise.

'I am informed that any chestnut palings and spikes imported into the United Kingdom from France are produced without the advantage of any subsidy from the French Government,' said Mr. Deakins.

Oil heaters

Mr. John Tomlinson (Meriden) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection would revise the oil heater regulations to bring them into line with the latest edition of the relevant British Standard.

Mr. Williams replied: 'Draft regulations based on British Standard 3300: 1974 have today been circulated to interested bodies for comment. They are intended to replace the existing Oil Heaters Regulations 1962 and 1966.'

Bargain offers

Mr. Paul B. Rose (Manchester, Blackley) asked what action is being taken in respect of the report of the Office of Fair Trading on so called bargain advertisements and offers.

Parliament continued

'The Director General of Fair Trading has invited comments on his proposals by 30 September,' said Mr. Williams, 'before deciding whether to refer them to the Consumer Protection Advisory Committee. I will consider what action to take when the Committee has reported to me.'

Mileage allowances

Mr. John Osborn (Sheffield, Hallam) asked for figures showing the mileage allowance granted to civil servants in the Departments of Industry, Trade and Prices and Consumer Protection and those institutions, offices and research establishments for which these Departments are responsible, indicating variations for the different grades of seniority and type of car permitted.

Mr. Deakins, Mr. Kaufman and Mr. Maclennan gave the following answer. 'The car milage allowances are the same for all grades. They are payable according to circumstances as follows:

Standard rates	
Car engine size:	
501 cc. to 1,000 cc.	7.9p a mile
1,001 cc. to 1,750 cc.	9.4p a mile
1,751 cc. and over	10.2p a mile
Public transport rate	3.7p a mile

Wednesday, 23 July

Nuclear power stations

Mr. James Sillars (South Ayrshire) asked the Secretary of State for Energy how many nuclear power stations were currently under construction; how many were seriously behind schedule; and what was his estimate of the cost of servicing them in the current financial year.

Mr. Eadie, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Energy, replied: 'There are four nuclear power stations currently under construction for the CEGB. The original forecast commissioning dates and the CEGB's current forecasts are as follows:

	Original forecast	Current forecast
Dungeness 'B'	1971	1977
Hinkley Point 'B'	1973	1976
Hartlepool	1974	1978
Heysham	1976	1978

'Interest charges to service these stations in the present financial year are expected to be about £50 million.

Electricity Council debt

Mr. Dafydd Thomas (Merioneth) asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what was the current debt of the Electricity Council, broadly identified by class of creditor.

Mr. Eadie said: 'I have been asked to reply. The current debt of the Electricity Council, amounting to about £5,300 million, comprises £625 million of British Electricity stocks, about £750 million of overseas loans, the balance being mainly Government loans from the National Loans Fund. Details are shown annually in Statement A26 of the Council's Accounts and Statistics.'

Fruit from Cyprus

Sir John Eden (Bournemouth West) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, whether it was his policy that fruit should continue to be imported into the United Kingdom from Cyprus; and, if so, whether he could give guidance to United Kingdom importers as to whether such fruit from the Turkish-held sector of Cyprus should be treated as the property of Turkish Cypriots.

'On the first point,' replied Mr. Deakins, 'undoubtedly yes, since continuance of this trade will assist the economic recovery of the island and is also seasonably important in maintaining the UK's supplies. On the second point, decisions on ownership are not matters for HMG but for the Courts, and I understand a court action is pending.'

Thursday, 24 July

Advanced gas reactor programme

Mr. Bruce Douglas-Mann (Merton, Mitcham and Morden) asked the Secretary of State for Energy what had been the total cost to date of the advanced gas reactor power programme; over what period the money had been spent; and what was the estimated production of electricity likely to result in each of the next 15 years.

Mr. Eadie replied: 'I understand from the CEGB that capital expenditure to 31 March 1975 on their AGR stations was about £630 million, and that the programme began in the financial year ended 31 March 1965. As the first of these stations is not expected to be commissioned until next year, it is difficult to make precise year-by-year forecasts of electricity production. However, by the time they are fully commissioned the CEGB expect the AGRs to produce about 26 TWh per annum.

Trade with Middle East oil producing countries—*continued from overleaf*

LIBYA IMPORTS FROM — US $ million

	UK	Germany	France	Italy	USA	Japan
1970	58.44	45.96	42.72	133.56	104.40	31.32
1971	75.84	60.12	96.24	175.80	77.76	43.08
Percentage change	29.8	30.8	125.3	31.6	25.5	37.5
1972	116.16	110.52	130.32	310.44	85.08	57.12
Percentage change	53.2	83.8	35.4	76.6	9.4	32.6
1973	149.52	210.24	199.56	452.64	103.68	110.16
Percentage change	28.7	90.2	53.1	45.8	21.9	92.9
1974	146.76	402.36	362.40	854.04	139.44	234.24
Percentage change	−1.8	91.4	81.6	88.7	34.5	112.6
1973 1st quarter	30.84	47.67	38.40	65.28	28.20	19.62
2nd quarter	35.37	55.05	46.05	117.15	31.50	22.83
3rd quarter	51.21	45.27	43.77	116.61	24.00	29.91
4th quarter	31.56	62.25	71.31	153.54	20.04	38.34
1974 1st quarter	27.72	78.12	82.16	156.12	21.42	46.83
2nd quarter	37.44	102.03	87.00	192.27	31.53	59.40
3rd quarter	40.29	108.99	89.25	233.61	35.97	64.95
4th quarter	41.82	113.19	104.07	272.04	50.49	63.03
1975 1st quarter	56.13	115.62	111.29	290.04	74.22	
Latest available quarter percentage change on same quarter of previous year	102.5	48.0	35.5	85.8	246.5	64.4

Source: OECD series A

KUWAIT IMPORTS FROM — US $ million

	UK	Germany	France	Italy	USA	Japan
1970	87.00	42.36	45.96	25.92	62.40	100.08
1971	85.80	41.88	49.20	26.52	83.76	83.64
Percentage change	−1.4	−1.1	7.0	2.3	34.2	−16.4
1972	78.36	54.00	37.80	36.60	111.24	116.28
Percentage change	−8.7	28.9	−23.2	38.0	32.8	39.0
1973	88.08	70.32	45.48	39.12	119.28	166.80
Percentage change	12.4	30.2	20.3	6.9	7.2	43.4
1974	140.04	159.96	63.96	65.52	208.56	279.24
Percentage change	59.0	127.5	40.6	67.5	74.8	67.4
1973 1st quarter	23.91	14.07	12.09	6.84	32.34	31.50
2nd quarter	21.57	16.02	10.41	8.28	26.40	43.29
3rd quarter	18.84	13.62	9.42	7.56	25.08	47.25
4th quarter	23.76	20.58	13.59	16.41	35.40	45.03
1974 1st quarter	20.91	29.58	11.10	9.78	35.79	46.53
2nd quarter	28.50	42.12	17.37	11.16	49.05	68.01
3rd quarter	40.86	36.45	12.60	17.22	44.67	79.26
4th quarter	49.26	51.78	22.83	27.30	78.96	85.50
1975 1st quarter	46.98	52.11	22.17	24.57	74.52	
Latest available quarter percentage change on same quarter of previous year	124.7	76.2	99.7	151.2	108.2	89.9

Source: OECD series A

(For comparison, the CEGB produced 213 TWh in 1974/75.) The present forecast commissioning dates are as follows: Hinckley Point "B" (1976), Dungeness "B" (1977), Heysham (1978) and Hartlepool (1978)'. He added that the Secretary of State for Scotland would no doubt be glad to give information in respect of the AGR station at Hunterston.

EEC energy research

Mr. Tom Normanton (Cheadle) requested a statement on the policy which the Government proposes should be adopted by the European Economic Community as far as energy research was concerned, and whether it was intended to proceed by indirect action in accordance with the views expressed by the European Parliament on the matter.

The Government, answered Mr. John Smith, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Energy, accepted the policy which the Council of the European Communities had adopted for science and technology, including energy research, set out in Council Resolutions of 14 January 1974 (OJ No. C7, 29 January 1974). In one of these, the Council had emphasised that the approach adopted should be whatever was most effective in the circumstances. The specific projects discussed at the Council on 15/16 July would be carried out by indirect action.

Marked prices and VAT

Mr. Cyril Smith (Rochdale) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection if she would introduce legislation to make VAT inclusive in marked prices on merchandise.

'The Director General of Fair Trading,' answered Mr. Williams, 'is examining this subject with a view to making proposals to the Consumer Protection Advisory Committee. I will consider what action to take when the Committee has reported to me. If the Hon. Member has any evidence of individual consumers being misled by VAT exclusive prices, I am sure that the Office of Fair Trading would be grateful to receive details.'

Food prices

Mr. Teddy Taylor (Glasgow, Cathcart) inquired of the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection by what percentage food prices had risen in the most recent annual period for which figures were available.

Mr. Maclennan said that over the 12 months to June 1975 the Food Index rose by 28.3 per cent.

Mr. George Rodgers (Chorley) wanted to know if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection would publish figures showing the effect on food prices of the Common Market Harmonisation Agreements.

In reply, Mr. Maclennan said: 'There is no evidence that the adoption by the Council of directives harmonising the laws of Member States relating to food standards has any significant effect on food prices. In so far as such directives enable the products in question to be produced in quantity and traded freely throughout the Community, they are likely to increase competition and consumer choice, and may be expected to exert a downward pressure on retail food prices.'

HS 146 production

Mr. Paul B. Rose (Manchester, Blackley) asked the Secretary of State for Industry whether he would now take action to expedite the production of the HS 146, notwithstanding the delay in the programme of public ownership of the aviation industry.

Mr. Kaufman replied that the Secretary of State for Industry had now considered the report prepared by the Tripartite Working Group which had been set up following his predecessor's statement of 9 December on the HS 146 project. The Minister of State had since issued an invitation to the Aerospace Committee of the CSEU to discuss the report. The small-scale programme of work at HSA which had been authorised was continuing.

Bird protection and North Sea oil

Miss Janet Fookes (Plymouth, Drake) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if consultations with the National Council for the Protection of Birds had taken place at an early stage when his department had been planning experiments involving oil slicks in the North Sea and what view the Council had taken.

Answering Mr. Kaufman said: 'In accordance with normal practice, when requirements for a meaningful trial had been determined by my Department's Warren Spring Laboratory, consultations were held with the Nature Conservancy Council. The NCC in turn informed the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. The Society communicated with the Laboratory regretting that they had not been consulted earlier but recognising the importance of this work in the North Sea. They recommended reconsideration of the timing or location of part of the trials because of a possible risk to early-migrating auks.'

Duty free quotas of paper

Mr. Sydney Irving (Dartford) inquired whether, in view of the lack of demand in the United Kingdom paper and board industry and the degree of short-time working being experienced, steps would be taken to ensure that no further upward reviews of duty free quotas would take place in relation to imports from the United Kingdom's previous EFTA partners who did not join the EEC.

'I am aware of the difficulties currently facing the United Kingdom paper and board industry,' replied Mr. Kaufman. 'Lord Beswick had agreed to meet representatives of the British Paper and Board Industry Federation before any changes were made to the present duty free quota levels. Their views would be taken fully into account. However, in setting quota levels the Government must take into account not only the interests of the producers but also of the intermediate and ultimate consumers who no less have their difficulties.'

British Leyland pension rights

Mr. Michael Shersby (Hillingdon, Uxbridge) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what consultations had taken place between his Department and British Leyland with regard to pension rights for the company's employees; and whether any improvement or expansion of pensions had been arranged or was planned to be implemented during 1975.

Pension arrangements were matters for negotiation between the company and its employees, answered Mr. Kaufman, and his Department had not been involved in the consultations. British Leyland were introducing a new and improved pension scheme for hourly paid employees with effect from 1 September 1975. He understood that the scheme had been under discussion since September 1974 and that negotiations had been concluded in May of this year. Over 75 per cent of those eligible had applied for membership of the scheme.

Friday, 25 July

North Sea production platforms

Mr. Frank McElhone (Glasgow, Queens Park) asked the Secretary of State for Energy what was his most recent estimate of the number of orders for oil and gas production platforms for the United Kingdom sector of the North Sea, and whether he proposed to support the development of further platform fabrication sites with public funds.

Mr. Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, replied: 'On current expectations I estimate that some 53 major platforms for installation in the UK sector of the North Sea will have been ordered by the end of 1980. The range of possibilities is, however, wide, extending from 43 at the lower end to 61 at the upper. I am placing details in the Library.

'In addition to the site at Portavadie, whose development is being financed by Government, the Government is to guarantee under the Offshore Petroleum Development (Scotland) Act the repayment of advances up to a maximum of £11.5 million together with accrued interest made by the Clydesdale Bank Ltd. to Anglo Dutch Offshore Concrete (ANDOC) for the development of a platform fabrication site at Hunterston. The Government will also be taking the site into public ownership. The guarantee will cease to be operative once ANDOC have won an order for the construction of an oil or gas production platform to be built at the site at Hunterston. If ANDOC receive no such order within two years (extendable by three months where a tender is outstanding), the Government will meet their liabilities to the bank and acquire their interests in the site facilities. The Government does not propose at the present time to finance any further sites.

'I am satisfied that the United Kingdom now has adequate capacity to provide all the steel and concrete platforms required for oil and gas production on the UK Continental Shelf. This is of considerable importance to our balance of payments which is likely to be adversely affected over the next few months by the arrival of a number of offshore production platforms and other equipment from abroad.'

Reprints of 'T & I' articles

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BOTB British Overseas Trade Board

The Côte d'Azur: new scope for British exports and investment

By Ian Alexander, Consul General, Nice

The legend of the Côte d'Azur dies hard. All those palms and bikini-clad forms on the golden beaches, backed in winter by a population of retired and ageing permanent residents.

The palms and the beaches are still there, and so is the year-round sunshine. But behind the façade a great deal is moving in the Department of the Alpes-Maritimes and Monaco.

The principal industry of the region has for more than a century been tourism, with its accompanying industries of building and hotels. In order to get away from dependence on the seasonal tourist trade, the French authorities have been making vigorous efforts during the last few years to attract industry to the area. These efforts towards diversification are now starting to bear fruit.

While the environmental and climatic pleasures of the immediate coastal strip are scrupulously observed, the close hinterland is being widely developed as an area for light industrial activity.

Special opportunities are being created for the development of electronics, pharmaceuticals, building supplies, the light metal industry in general and all forms of secondary industry, including assembly, finishing and warehousing.

Industrial zones

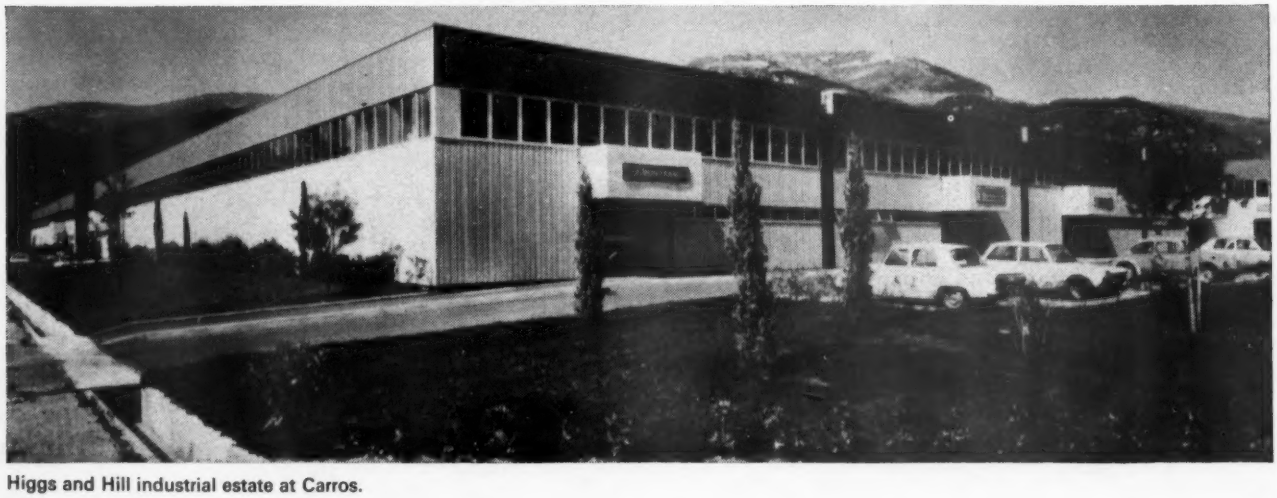
Behind the coastline a series of industrial zones have already been created. One of the most important of these, at Carros, is being developed by Higgs and Hill Ltd., whose clients include such firms as Wrighton, suppliers of kitchen furniture and equipment, while Max Factor, UK, and other British firms have shown interest. Carros in fact serves a conurbation of 1 million people within a 30 km. radius. A new town – Carros le Neuf – designed for employees on the site, already has 3,000 residents, while the eventual population is planned for 12,000.

Eight miles up the coast just behind Antibes, the important industrial complex of Sophia Antipolis ('Wisdom of Antibes') is in full development. This is being laid out with the assistance of the French Ministry of Planning, as an internationally-oriented complex for scientific industrial activities. This brains centre has already attracted such firms as Rank Xerox, Franlab, a branch of the French Petroleum Institute; CFPS (French Seismic Prospecting Co.); Searle, the American pharmaceutical company; and the National Centre for Telecommunications Studies. Air France plan to operate their entire computerised booking system from the centre. Nearby, IBM and Texas Instruments have been established for several years in the Antibes area. Other similar zones have been set aside for industry in six of the larger coastal towns, while in Monaco 22 hectares of land have been reclaimed from the sea, and certain parts of the site have been reserved for industrial development.

The skiing and holiday complex set up at 'Isola 2000' (an hour's drive or 15 minutes by air from Nice) by Bernard Sunley is still expanding. In Nice itself Sunleys and the Ulster Property Co. are both developing important sites in the centre of the town for offices, shops and flats. Coral Holdings have submitted to the Nice Municipality plans for a swimming and gaming centre representing an investment of £20 million.

In Cannes the British company of Weatheralls is building a complex of 19 apartments on the Mariposa site. Designed by Sir Basil Spence, this has been described as 'perhaps the most luxurious on the Côte d'Azur'. British hotel interests on the Côte are represented by the Carlton Hotel in Cannes and the Metropole in Monte Carlo, which are part of the Great Metropolitan organisation. British investors are also interested in the Hotel Gray d'Albion in Cannes. These are among the initiatives which have led the French press to speak of 'a new British invasion of the Côte d'Azur'.

Lloyds, Barclays, Grindlays and the National Westminster Bank all have branches in the principal towns to offer expert banking advice. In the estate agency field, John Taylor have



Higgs and Hill industrial estate at Carros.

been established on the Côte d'Azur for over a century. Weatheralls and Richard Ellis, who represent Higgs and Hill Ltd. are recent arrivals, while Gross, Fine, Krieger, Chalfen have now also opened in Nice.

Monaco also carries a full range of banking facilities on account of the special tax advantages available to foreign investors in the Principality.

British Motors (Wright Brothers) in Monaco, and Kennings based on Nice, cover all the principal models of British cars.

All this activity implies an ever increasing demand for equipment of various types. The establishment of light industries and research centres should offer good prospects for specialist sections of British industry. The whole region constitutes a promising potential market for a wide variety of consumer goods particularly those relating to the leisure, sport and hotel and catering industries. British companies are beginning to make inroads in the market for sailing and power boats and recognise the importance of having their own representation or agents with facilities for servicing and spares and accessories on the spot.

Other promising areas are ready to wear, high quality British textiles, gift ware (the Department had 1½ million tourists in 1974), wall and floor coverings, etc. There is also a small but increasing demand for British food products.

Movement of materials

Industrialists are attracted to the area by the facilities for the fast movement of materials, equipment and merchandise, not only in Southern France and Northern Italy but increasingly in the Western Mediterranean generally. Studies are also being made of the possibilities in the region for developing North African markets and those of the Eastern Mediterranean.

Nice Airport, with its year-round fog-free operation, is now the second in France. It is served by over 20 international airlines, and direct services link Nice daily with London. The airport, which already takes the heaviest aircraft, is being expanded on land reclaimed from the sea in order to build a new runway, while on the west of the airport extension a new commercial seaport will be created, to take ships of up to 100,000 tons. Twenty miles away Mandelieu Airport, just outside Cannes, provides excellent landing and service facilities for executive planes and other private aircraft.

By road the area is already served by autoroutes as far as Cagnes on the one side, and Menton on the other. When the Nice bypass is finished in 1976, this will practically link up the Italian and French motorway systems, giving rapid access to Italy, Switzerland, Austria and Yugoslavia, while moving in the other direction the way is open to Spain, Paris, the UK and Northern Europe. Immediately behind Nice is a major haulage customs clearing house, where clearance can be arranged on the spot, thus avoiding delays at northern ports or the French border. At the same time, the railway lines from the north to Italy pass through the Côte d'Azur, where in addition to excellent goods services, such prestige trains as the 'Mistral' give quick and comfortable access to Paris and beyond.

Local labour costs are relatively low, in comparison with the rest of France. At the same time, a yearly influx of young people from other parts of France, many of whom are already highly qualified in their trade, adds to the reserve of skilled and semi-skilled labour, and has helped to give the region the fastest rate of population growth in the country. The climate makes it relatively easy to attract skilled personnel to the area.

Eligible for concessions

The Department of the Alpes-Maritimes is classified as Zone B, equivalent to the 'grey area' in the UK. This makes it eligible for a number of highly interesting concessions, designed to encourage investment in the area. Foreign companies installing themselves here are entitled to the same advantages as firms coming from Paris as part of the government inducement towards decentralisation. They include a reduction of local taxes for five years; 50 per cent rebate on the price of state-owned land; and subsidies for re-location of key personnel and training of local staff. The moderate climate means that heating and other fuel costs are considerably lower than in more rugged zones.

Nice airport, which with its year-round fog-free operation, is now the second in France.

The Department of the Alpes-Maritimes and the Principality of Monaco are on the move. It is an area with long standing links with the UK and in the early development of which the British played an important part. They can still do so profitably today. As a market, as a base for servicing and distribution, as a place for manufacturing for the Northern Mediterranean, it is worth studying very carefully. The British Consulates-General in Marseilles and Nice, and the Southern French Regional Council of the British Chamber of Commerce, whose representative on the Côte d'Azur is John Millar of Flextube SA in Monaco, will be delighted to provide information and advice, as will the banks and other bodies mentioned in this article.

The Nice bypass, due to be finished in 1976.

Exhibitions and Fairs

'Messing about in boats' at the National Boat Show, Melbourne.

Boating first for Britain in Melbourne show

From C. W. Jardine, Vice-Consul (Commercial), British Consulate-General, Melbourne: For the first time eight British companies, sponsored by the Ship and Boat Builders National Federation, and the British Overseas Trade Board, took part in a joint venture at the 1975 National Boat Show in Melbourne, 5-13 July.

The Melbourne Boat Show is still *the* trade event in Australia, and this year attracted over 80 exhibitors. All exhibition space had been sold out months beforehand. British exhibitors presented a useful cross-section of marine products from inflatable boats (Avon Rubber Co. Ltd.), engines (Watermota Ltd.), pumps (Munster Simms), radar (Decca Radar Ltd.), echo sounders (Incastec Associates), to sail battens (Short and Norvill Ltd.) and foul weather clothing (Henri-Lloyd Ltd. and Peter Storm Ltd.).

The exhibits, displayed in a colourful stand which attracted favourable press comment, drew many visitors, both private and trade, resulting in firm orders and a large number of serious trade inquiries. UK companies felt that the show had been a success and most useful to renew and strengthen ties with Australian customers and representatives. Although attendance at this year's show was down by approximately 20,000 (largely due to the first ever sail-boat exhibition held in Melbourne in April), show organisers reported record sales for both trade and retail exhibitors.

Over 450 craft were on display and most of them were in the smaller size range, reflecting consumer demand for boats of between 10 and 16 ft. in length. More displacement boats are appearing – speed is becoming more expensive and will get more so as fuel costs go up. Practically all the craft on show were of glass fibre or aluminium.

The industry is becoming more adept at marketing and is endeavouring to persuade the man-in-the-street to take to the water (at present one family in 10 owns a boat). With his high level of wages, he has shown an increased interest in buying small boats and industry has responded by providing a large number of package deals, ie boat plus trailer plus power unit and other accessories at an attractive price; or by offering part completed vessels, eg hull, with steering gear, and trailer. The object of the latter offer is to encourage people to tailor-make or personalise boats to their own tastes. This in the longer term could lead to increased business for UK manufacturers of chandlery lines, accessories and navigation instruments.

Inflatable boats attracted considerably more interest this year. Main competition to Avon and Beaufort boats came from Germany, France and Italy.

There were also engines and gear of all kinds. This year saw the first full-scale appearance of Mariner outboards, already a well established part of the scene, Chrysler and Mercury as always, with Johnson and Evinrude well represented by their dealers. Others from overseas on display were Tohatsu from Japan, Selva from Italy, Terhi from Finland, Volvo Penta from Sweden, Hanimex and Clinton of US origin and the evergreen British Seagull.

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Doctors' shop window at SICOT exhibition, Copenhagen

From M. Helle, British Embassy, Copenhagen: Six British companies formed a joint venture sponsored by the British Hospitals Export Council and the British Overseas Trade Board when SICOT, the International Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology, held its 13th world congress from 6-11 July at the Bella Centre Copenhagen. A total of 1,800 doctors took an active part in the Congress. The delegates represented 61 different nations with the largest single contingents from Japan and USA. Great Britain, France, Italy, Spain and West Germany were also well represented. In addition, sizeable numbers of surgeons from South America, Africa, and the Middle East found their way to Copenhagen.

Replacement parts

This first SICOT event in Denmark (the previous one was held in Israel) was described as a great success. The more than 400 papers read included all aspects of replacement parts of the human body and this then formed an excellent background to the technical exhibition where modern technologists' splendid imitation of nature's own spare parts was on display.

International event

The exhibition, which was held in the exhibition halls adjoining the congress halls, had attracted 69 exhibitors including 12 companies from the UK, six whom took part in the joint venture. Among other nationalities were 16 American firms and 12 from West Germany; Switzerland and Sweden were also well represented. It is noticeable that although the exhibition took place in Denmark only eight Danish companies exhibited – a clear indication of the international rather than national importance of the event.

Individual displays

In addition to the commercial technical exhibition, the organising international society had invited doctors from their members to make small individual displays of their professional work, forming the scientific exhibition in the centre of the technical exhibition. Some 25 displays represented this doctors' own shop window which helped attract attention from the congress halls. In the scientific entry Britain was represented by two doctors from the London Hospital.

New markets

The overall impression was that the exhibitors all had their fair share of visitors from the congress and the high concentration of doctors resulted in numerous serious inquiries. All firms in the British joint venture were satisfied with the results that they had achieved and thought the participation well worthwhile; and most important, the close contact with the doctors opened up new markets in the Middle East, Africa and other distant areas. Although not expecting to sell at this kind of exhibition, some of the British firms took orders and all expected to be busy following up the many inquiries from the individual countries.

The next SICOT congress and exhibition will be held in Kyoto, Japan, in three years.

UK firms in Sydney show

A group of five UK based electronics companies will exhibit at this year's electronics exhibition being held in association with the international electronics convention '75 from 25-29 August at the University of New South Wales, Sydney. The group is sponsored by the Electronic Engineering Association (EEA) with the support of the British Overseas Trade Board.

The convention, according to the organisers, the Institution of Radio and Electronic Engineers of Australia, will be the largest and most comprehensive meeting ever staged in the Southern Hemisphere. It is organised into a number of concurrent sessions, where papers to be presented by leading authorities will include:

Computers and Calculators
Electronic Systems and Control
Communications through Fibre Optics
Microelectronics
Health Electronics
Navigational Aids
Telecommunications
Educational Electronics
Industrial Electronics
Radio Broadcasting, including Frequency modulation
Television Broadcasting, particularly colour TV
Electronics Components.
Audio Electroacoustics.

One of the British joint venture stands at the SICOT exhibition in Copenhagen.

Electronics in San Francisco

Fifteen UK electronics companies have applied to participate in this year's Western Electronics Show and Convention, 'WESCON', which is to be held at Brooks Hall/Civic Auditorium, San Franscisco, California, during September.

The Group is sponsored by the Electronic Engineering Association (EEA) and will be supported by the British Overseas Trade Board.

Despite high inflation and the high costs of borrowing, the Western United States electronics market place continues to draw the crowds and stimulate business. Last year's show in Los Angeles attracted over 28,000 engineers and buyers.

Exceptional opportunity for British manufacturers in Melbourne

The British Overseas Trade Board is sponsoring 31 British firms at the International Engineering Exhibition in Melbourne from 28 July-2 August.

The exhibition offers an exceptional opportunity for British manufacturers to show their products to Australian buyers.

British products on display, new to the Australian market, include an engine-powered fork lift truck, a hydro-mechanical guillotine for metal cutting, a fastening system, adhesives, a vibratory and barrel tumbling machine and a spring coiling lathe.

Other British products on show are magnetic tools, a horizontal milling machine, a continuous grinding gauge, castors for containers, office record systems, fast binding machines, riveting and fastener equipment, axial piston wheel hub motors, and a compact fully automatic bench model lapping and polishing machine. In addition, a publishing firm is showing a selection of books on engineering, and also monographs and overhead projected transparencies.

Hardware and houseware trade fair, Dublin

Nineteen companies will be participating in the joint venture organised by the Hardware Manufacturers' Association in conjunction with the British Overseas Trade Board at the Irish Hardware and Housewares Trade Fair, which will take place in Dublin from 7-9 October.

Third fair

The Fair, the third in the series, is sponsored by the Irish Hardware Association and is the only specialist event of its kind in Ireland. It is aimed at an exclusively trade audience and, in view of the considerable advances shown by the first two exhibitors in the series in 1971 and 1973, the organisers anticipate even greater success for this year's event.

Hardware to china

Exhibits will range from hardware, builders' supplies, ironmongery, electric goods and decor to china, glassware, gifts, household goods, cutlery, furnishings, garden supplies and other items.

The joint venture will be the sixth in this year's series organised by the HMA as part of a vigorous campaign to assist its members' export achievements.

autumn fair

utrecht netherlands
31st august - 4th september 1975

daily from 9 am - 6 pm, sunday 31st august from 10 am - 6 pm

exhibition programme

clocks, gold and silverware / optics / glassware, pottery, crystalware and china / cutlery / housewares / giftware / far eastern artjcles / handicraft articles / costume jewellery / toiletries / smokers' requisites / lighting goods / leather goods / toys, handicraft and hobby requisites, sports goods and party novelties / office supplies and -machines / stationery.

organisation / catalogue

royal netherlands industries fair, utrecht
phone: (30) 914 914 - telex 47132.

u.k. agents

exhibition consultants ltd.,
11 manchester square, london W1M 5 AB
phone: [illegible] 486 1951

BOTB News

UK firms win £750,000 orders in Iran and Iraq

Orders worth £750,000 have been won by companies who took part in a trade mission, organised by the British Overseas Trade Board and the Engineering Industries Association, to Iran and Iraq in March 1975.

Newton Chambers Engineering Ltd., Sheffield, have been awarded a £450,000 contract for water control equipment for navigation locks in Iraq. The contract is from a major Iraq civil contractor for work on a Government sponsored project and the order was obtained against strong competition from Italy. The company anticipates a further £100,000 worth of business over the next five years in Iraq.

C. A. Harnden Ltd., Hyde, Cheshire, have received a £79,000 order for polythene bag-making machines from the Department of Commerce, Tehran. The machines will form part of a new in-line bakery and wrapping unit which is to be a pilot scheme, in a master bakery plan, to mechanise the country's bread production.

After a visit to the oil wells in Kurdestan, Broadbent Machine Tools Ltd., near Halifax, have orders for two large oil country lathes worth £40,000 each. Two smaller centre lathes worth £12,000 have been ordered from the sister company Stanley Machine Tool Co. Ltd., Halifax.

AEW Engineering Co. Ltd., Costessey, Norwich have orders for £30,000 of their meat cutting bandsaws from Iran and Iraq. Hudson Forge Ltd., Brighouse, have received a £5,000 order for wire making machinery spares from a factory in Iraq, and anticipate further orders worth £25,000 for wire machines.

Simon Engineering Dudley Ltd., Worcestershire, have been asked to supply two fire fighting and rescue units valued at approximately £100,000 to the Baghdad Fire Brigade.

Note

The BOTB/Engineering Industries Association mission was one of the first to Iran after the visit there by Mr. Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, when he signed agreements offering valuable business and many new job opportunities for Britain.

New appointment to European Trade Committee

Barry Reed, chairman and managing director of the Austin Reed Group Ltd. has accepted the invitation of Sir Derek Ezra to join the European Trade Committee of the British Overseas Trade Board.

A glass fibre white horse, 7 ft. high and over 8 ft. long, one of 25 ordered by White Horse Distillers Ltd. mainly for export to the company's distributors throughout the world.

Seminar on distribution through the Netherlands

A one-day seminar on distribution to, in and through the Netherlands is being organised on 17 September 1975 in Manchester by the Netherlands British Chamber of Commerce, Barclays Bank International Ltd. and the British Overseas Trade Board.

The Chamber say that the Netherlands are Britain's fourth largest customer for exports. Perhaps even more important is the fact that via the Netherlands easy access can be gained to the rest of Europe; amongst other things the Dutch run about 40 per cent of all road transport in the EEC.

Ways in which this expertise can be usefully employed will be discussed and experts will deal with the structure and function of the wholesale and retail trade, physical distribution as well as legal and financial aspects of trading in Europe.

The fee is £19.50 (including lunch, documentation, etc.) for members of the Netherlands British Chamber of Commerce and the CBI and £21.50 for others.

The subject should interest British companies with expansion plans in the EEC. Attendance is limited to 150 participants and advance bookings will be accepted at the Chamber's office in Manchester (tel. 061-834 5674).

Record number of British firms at US boat shows

A record number of over 40 British companies are taking part in joint venture displays at two boat shows in the United States this autumn. The firms are sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board and the Ship and Boat Builders Federation.

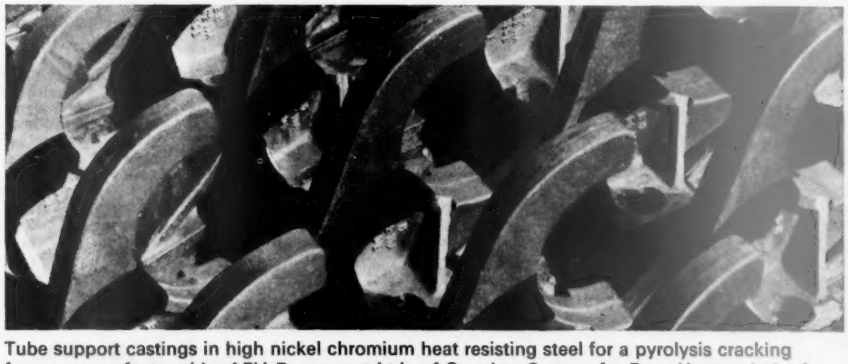
Chicago Marine Trade Exhibition and Conference 18-21 September

A group of 18 companies will be taking part – double the number of British firms which exhibited in 1974. Among the products they will be displaying are wet suits, buoyancy aids, rudders, anchors, echo sounders, and inflatable boats.

In association with Richmond Marine Ltd., Kasparian Overseas Ltd., who are exhibiting, received an order in July from the United States for a minimum of 1,200 boats in the 12 months commencing 1 August 1975. This order is worth approximately £400,000 and further orders of over £1 million are expected during the next three years.

Annapolis: United States Sailboat Show 15-19 October

The British group of 25 companies will have one of the largest displays ever arranged by a foreign country at a USA boat show. Among the many British products on display will be navigational instruments, waterproof clothing, dinghies, life rafts, and mono and multi-hull sailing boats.



Tube support castings in high nickel chromium heat resisting steel for a pyrolysis cracking furnace manufactured by APV-Paramount Ltd,. of Crawley, Sussex, for Born Heaters Ltd. of Brighton. These castings are for a contract for expanding the existing plant engineered by Stone and Webster at the refinery of Petkim Petrokimya A.S., Izmir, Turkey.

Trade Information

Relief from import duty under Section 7 of the Import Duties Act 1958

In the present balance of payments and employment situation, it is more than ever important that full regard should be paid to the interests of British manufacturers before relief from duty is given on imports of goods from non-EEC sources for processing and re-export. This applies particularly where companies manufacture regularly for export.

Applicants for duty relief are currently asked to provide with their applications information about the efforts made to obtain supplies from UK producers and the reasons for not using UK goods. Unfortunately this information is not always provided and this has resulted in delays during investigation by the Department leading to understandable complaints from applicants. The Department of Trade has therefore decided in future to make it a prior requirement of the consideration of applications for Section 7 relief on imports from non-EEC sources that the application is accompanied by either:

(a) evidence of unsuccessful efforts to obtain comparable goods from UK manufacturers; or

(b) other evidence showing reasons why the use of UK materials is not appropriate.

The evidence under (a) above should normally consist of copies of correspondence from home and overseas suppliers where the application is based on grounds of non-availability, price or delivery and, under (b), evidence in the form of a letter or contract showing that the overseas customer has specified the use of particular goods or components of non-EEC origin.

The Department reserves the right to satisfy itself by independent verification that relief can properly be granted, though it expects that given the co-operation of applicants the new procedure will enable quicker decisions to be given as experience is gained.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

A Public Auction Sale of surplus Government furniture, equipment and medical laboratory glassware has been arranged at the Department of the Environment, Supplies Division Store Bay 5, Ashton Vale Road Bristol, Avon BS3 2HJ. The Sale will commence at 1000 hours on the 13 August 1975 and viewing will be allowed from 0900 hours to 1630 hours on 12 August 1975. Catalogues can be obtained from the Auctioneers, Messrs. Stanley Alder and Price, 7 St. Stephens Street, Bristol, Avon BS1 1EG.

THE EXPORT TRADE

The Law and Practice of International Trade

Sixth edition
by
Clive M Schmitthoff

For more than twenty-six years *Schmitthoff's Export Trade* has been the reliable guide for exporters and students to the law and practice of international trade. The author is an internationally recognised authority in this field. As adviser to the United Nations he helped to prepare the report which led to the creation of UNCITRAL, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law.

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1975 **£11.50** *net*

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Bookshop: 116 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PP

In the case of certain textile materials special procedure is already in operation and is known to the interested parties. That procedure will not be affected by this Notice.

It remains the intention that relief from import duty under Section 7 should continue to be given in the interests of the export trade wherever it can be shown that the order could not reasonably have been fulfilled using British instead of non-EEC materials or components. The existing criteria for judging eligibility will continue unaltered.

Inquiries about this Notice should be made to the Department of Trade, General Division 2A, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ (tel. 01-215 5513).

Bolivia: commercial representation

A British Trade office has been opened in Santa Cruz. Frank Taendler who has previously worked for the Commercial Section of the British Embassy in La Paz, has been appointed as part time commercial officer, to look after British commercial interests in Santa Cruz. His address is: Casilla No. 3181, Santa Cruz, Bolivia (tel. 22511).

Indonesia: CBI mission report

Copies of the report of the CBI top-level trade and investment mission to Indonesia from 26 April to 9 May 1975, mentioned in the 'Into Opec' special report issued with *Trade and Industry* on 11 July, are now available from the Confederation of British Industry, 21 Tothill Street, London SW1H 9LP (tel. 01-930 6711) at a charge of £4.00.

Algiers: hotels full

The British Embassy in Algiers states that from mid-August to mid-September hotel accommodation will be impossible to obtain in Algiers itself or within a 100 km. radius from the city. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5358.

ECGD news

First loan guaranteed for El Salvador

The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed a loan of £8 million which Williams and Glyn's Bank Ltd. has made available to Instituto Salvadoreno de Fomento Industrial (INSAFI), El Salvador.

The loan will help finance a turnkey contract which Fletcher and Stewart Ltd., of Derby, has won to design and construct a sugar cane processing factory.

The factory will be built in the Jiboa Valley Province at San Vicente and is scheduled for commissioning early in 1977. It has been designed initially to process 3,175 tonnes of cane a day yielding approximately 320 tonnes of raw sugar from which 114 tonnes will be refined for sale as white sugar. Provision has been made to extend the factory to a daily processing capacity of 5,800 tonnes of sugar cane, with a corresponding increase in the total output of sugar.

This is the first loan guaranteed by ECGD for El Salvador.

Six country line of credit

The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed a £1 million line of credit which will enable buyers in USA, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela to place orders in the UK for capital goods and associated services. The loan has been made available by National Westminster Bank Ltd. to North Carolina National Bank (NCNB), USA. Contracts to be placed under this line of credit will be nominated by NCNB Branch offices in the approved countries.

UK exporters will receive 80 per cent of the contract price from the loan after shipment of the goods; the remaining 20 per cent is payable from the buyer's own resources. To qualify under the terms of the loan, a contract must have a minimum value of £10,000 and be placed by 15 July 1976.

Exporters interested in further details of this facility should contact either Mr. J. R. Cutmore of ECGD (tel. 01-606 6699 ext. 287) or Mr. C. J. Cheesman of National Westminster Bank (tel. 01-606 1080 ext. 358).

Capital goods for Romania

The ECGD has guaranteed a £3 million line of credit which Barclays Bank has arranged with the Romanian Bank for Foreign Trade.

The line of credit will help finance contracts placed in the UK for capital goods and services by Romanian buyers. UK exporters will receive 85 per cent of the contract price from the loan after shipment of the goods; the remaining 15 per cent is payable from the buyer's own resources. To qualify under the terms of the loan a contract must have a minimum value of £5,000 and be placed by 30 May 1977.

This brings the total of lines of credit guaranteed by ECGD for Romania since 1972 to £17 million. Contracts placed under previous lines have included fork-lift trucks, sand mixers, grinding machinery, railway equipment and textile machinery. The latest loan agreement will be managed by Barclays Bank International with the assistance of the Anglo-Romanian Bank Ltd.

Exporters interested in further details of this facility should contact either Miss P. A. Dexter, of ECGD (tel. 01-606 6699 ext. 7302), or Mrs. V. M. Calthorpe, of Barclays Bank International (tel. 01-283 8989 ext. 3436).

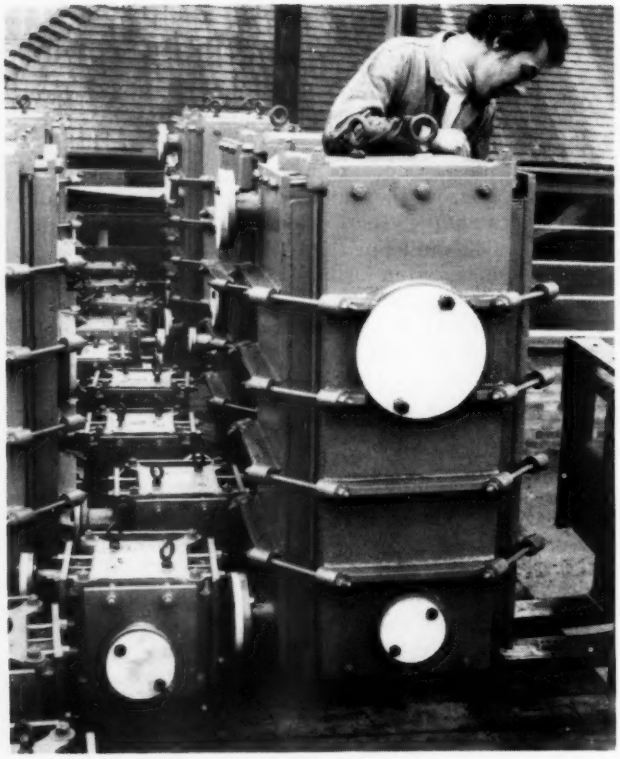
Loading jetty for Peruvian marine terminal

The ECGD has guaranteed a loan of £5.3 million which J. Henry Schroder Wagg and Co. Ltd., acting on behalf of National Westminster Bank Ltd., has made available to Petroleos del Peru.

The loan will help finance a contract for the design and construction of a loading jetty with associated mechanical and electrical installation awarded to George Wimpey and Co. Ltd. The jetty will form part of the marine terminal to be constructed at Bayovar and will be capable of taking tankers of up to 250,000 tons dwt.

The terminal is being built to receive oil from the Amazon Basin which will be pumped through a 531-mile trans-Andean pipeline to the northern coast of Peru. The loading jetty is scheduled for completion by the middle of 1976.

Tariff and Trade Notices



Part of a consignment of 37 graphite cubic block heat exchangers designed to operate as condensers leaving the Uxbridge factory of Graphite Equipment Ltd. for the Irish Republic. The order was obtained from Jacobs International Ltd. Inc., Dublin, a subsidiary of Jacobs Engineering Co., engineers and constructors of Pasadena, California, for the new plant of Syntex Ireland Ltd., Co. Clare. Graphite Equipment manufactures many other designs and types of graphite heat exchangers, safety discs and pumps. Over 50 per cent of production is exported – for use in plants manufacturing chemicals, pharmaceuticals and other medicinal preparations.

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exporters (CRE) Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension. In the Tariff and Trade Notices section countries are grouped by continents as far as possible; they are listed alphabetically on the contents page.

Irish Republic

Footwear: import duties. A notice published in the Dublin press on 12 July 1975 states that the Irish Government, pursuant to a decision of the Commission of the European Communities, has made the Imposition of Duties (No. 220) (Footwear) Order 1975.

The Order increases to 10 per cent *ad valorem* the customs duties on footwear classified under tariff heading No. 64.02A, originating in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland.

Copies of the Order may be purchased from the Government Sales Office, GPO Arcade, Dublin 1. Price 2p, postage extra.

No further information is available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 466/477/288.

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France

Reduction of TVA on sensitised-surface printing plates. The French *Journal Officiel*, 17 July 1975, announced a new decree dated 15 July relating to the rate of value added tax on sensitised-surface printing plates. Sensitised surfaces intended for the production of printing plates by any photomechanical process are now subject to the standard rate of TVA, ie 20 per cent instead of 33⅓ per cent as formerly. Copies of the French text can be sent on request or seen at Export House. Inquiries: OTAR ext.. 423/7174/408/482.

Imports of veterinary medicaments. The French *Journal Officiel*, 12 July 1975, refers to Law No. 409 of 29 May 1975. Under its regulations bulk sale and wholesale distribution of veterinary medicaments are authorised only in establishments open at the date of publication of the law. No new products may be marketed without authorisation.

Authority to import can only be given on the presentation of documents such as copies of previous correspondence with the Minister of Health, or the Minister of Agriculture, when it concerns serums and vaccines.

Copies of the French text can be sent on request or seen at Export House. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 423/7174/408/482.

Tunisia

Second-hand tractors. The Tunisian *Official Journal* of 30 May, announced that from 28 May 1975 imports of second-hand tractors fitted with winches (BN 87.01) are prohibited. Inquiries: OTAR ext: 461/459.

Yemen Arab Republic

Television sets: import ban lifted. The Minister of Information of the Yemen Arab Republic issued Decree 26 on 22 June 1975 lifting the ban on television sets. Application for import permits can be made to the Directorate General of Television. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 420.

Mauritania

Tariff modifications. Law No. 74-152 of 11 July 1974 modified Mauritania's import regime relating to the importation of the following products:

63.01	Clothing, clothing accessories, travelling rugs and blankets, household linen and furnishing articles (other than articles falling within heading no. 58.01, 58.02 or 58.03), of textile materials, footwear and headgear of any material, showing signs of appreciable wear and imported in bulk or in bales, sacks or similar bulk packings.
84.06	Internal combustion piston engines of outboard motor type for small boats or craft
87.14	Other vehicles (including trailers), not mechanically propelled, and parts thereof

Details are available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 472/462/471/473.

Ivory Coast

Industrial ovens for bakery. By Arrete No. 0134/MC/DP of 11 June 1975, the importation into the Ivory Coast of industrial ovens for bakery and parts or spare parts under tariff heading 84-1410 and 84-1440 cannot be effected without prior authorisation from the Direction du Commerce Exterieur. The granting of prior approval is dependent on a joint Arrete from the Ministry of Planning and Ministry of Commerce authorising the setting up or expansion of a bakery on the renewal of an old or damaged oven. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 472/462/471/473.

Cameroon

Import programme for 1975. Circular No. 9 described the import programme for 1975 in Cameroon and takes the following form.

The necessity for obtaining an import licence, previously only necessary for those products coming from outside the franc zone has now been extended to products coming from all sources.

However, for imports of less than 500,000 CFA francs, a licence is not necessary.

The procedure for goods not on the liberalised list has also been altered slightly. Details are available.

Import licences will only be granted to those importers authorised by the Ministry of Industrial and Commercial Development.

A list of the products which are subject to prior authorisation is available. Exporters are reminded that the importation into Cameroon of frippery, old clothes, old furniture, etc., and colza oils is prohibited. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 472/462/471/473.

Name and address with cable

British firms cabling an overseas organisation for the first time should ensure that they include their name and full postal address. There is no comprehensive directory of cable addresses, and commercial departments in British embassies are often unable to help local firms who ask them to trace British firms from their cable address.

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South Africa

Electrical products: Hazardous Substances Act. Notice R1382 published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 18 July 1975, gives notification that the Minister of Health intends to declare the following electrical products to be Group 3 hazardous substances:

Diagnostic X-ray units
Therapeutic X-ray units
X-ray units used for industrial, research, educational or any other purposes
Electron accelerators
Heavy particle accelerators
Neutron generators

Comments and representations should be made to the Secretary for Health, Private Bag X88, Pretoria, by 17 October 1975. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5274.

Aflatoxin in foodstuffs. Notice R1322 published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 11 July 1975, gives notification that the Minister of Health intends to amend the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act by the introduction of the following regulation:

No person shall sell any foodstuff which contains more than 10 μg/kg. of aflatoxin, of which not more than 5 μg/kg. may be aflatoxin B_1, or any other fungus-produced toxins.

Comments and representations should reach the Secretary for Health, Private Bag X88, Pretoria, by 10 October 1975. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5274.

Sunflower seed and groundnuts. Notices R1233 and 1234 published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 27 June 1975, amend the Marketing Act by introducing regulations relating to the grading of sunflower seed and groundnuts respectively. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 471/472/473/462.

New Zealand

Motor spirits duty. The Customs Acts Amendment Act 1975, which came into operation on 23 May 1975 makes provisions for the payment of motor spirits duty at the following rates:

a In respect of motor spirits of such kind as may from time to time be determined by the Minister to be aviation fuel	9.36 cents per litre
b In respect of all other motor spirits	8.70 cents per litre

The Amendment Act also provides for the alignment of the duty rates on imported motor spirits and related products as set out in the Customs Tariff with those on locally refined motor spirits.

The Amendment Act also updates, but does not alter, the definition of motor spirits contained in the Motor Spirits Duty Act 1961. This is necessary in view of the changes made to the Tariff item numbers in which motor spirits are classified.

Since 1 April 1971 the full amount of motor spirits duty has been credited to the National Roads Board. Provision has been made in the Transport Amendment Act for the additional 4.70 cents per litre on motor spirits and the 9.36 cents per litre on aviation fuel imposed by the Customs Acts Amendment Act 1975 to be credited to the Consolidated Revenue Account.

No more details available but a further notice will be issued as soon as additional information is received. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 401/468/469.

Trinidad and Tobago

Plant Protection Act. The Plant Protection Act, which was passed on 4 July 1975, makes it mandatory for importers to obtain import licences for fruits, planting material, plant pest pathogens, plant products, soil, vegetables or any other prescribed articles before any of these articles can be imported into Trinidad and Tobago. Importation of a restricted article must also be accompanied by a health certificate from the country of origin. Copies of the text may be obtained from OTAR ext. 7312/456/457.

Mexico

Books: prior import permits. The Mexican Industry Chamber has announced that the Government will shortly introduce the requirement of prior import permits for books. This measure is aimed at protecting the Mexican publishing industry against 'dumping' of large quantities of low-cost Spanish-language books by large international publishers and against the discriminatory restrictions placed on Mexican publications in many Latin American countries, through import permit requirements and censorship. It is not known how the measure will affect bulk imports of English-language books published in the UK, although it will presumably eliminate direct order to UK publishers from readers in Mexico. Further information will be published when the details are received. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

Import restrictions. In a joint statement to the press on 12 July the Mexican Ministers of Finance and Industry and Commerce said that, in order to reduce the rate of inflation: 'non-essential' and 'luxury' imports would be further restricted, by means of more stringent import permit requirements and higher customs duties. At the same time, imports of machinery to increase production of manufactured goods for export by Mexico would receive subsidies in the form of a rebate on import duties. No details were given as to how the new restrictions were to be applied.

Since the announcement about the extension of the import permit requirements, trade at the US/Mexico border has been greatly disrupted: the announcement apparently made no reference to exceptions in the case of goods entering the 'free zones'. Details of the official announcement will be published as soon as they are available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section,
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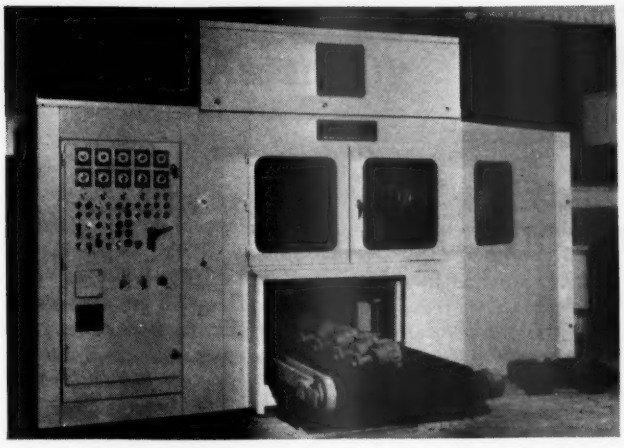

A Stone-Wallwork 210 corebelter machine producing hollow shell cores for gearbox castings. Automotive Patterns (Precision Equipment) Ltd. and Stone Wallwork, both subsidiaries of Stone Platt Industries, have jointly secured an order from Hyundai Motor Co. for foundry equipment, including coremaking machinery and pattern equipment, together with tooling to produce castings for three sizes of diesel engines to be produced in South Korea by Hyundai under licence agreement from Perkins. The value of the order is about £700,000.

Uruguay

Sugar industry: special concessions. Decree 448/975 extends until 10 January 1976 the special concessions for the sugar industry notified in *Trade and Industry*, 23 May 1974, page 418. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

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The lists of tariff, customs and import regulation changes in overseas countries published in this section of *Trade and Industry* sometimes contain words which are registered trade marks in the United Kingdom. So far as is practicable, all lists of goods are checked before publication from this point of view. Items which fall into this category are preceded by the letters rtm. Readers should note that this prefix signifies that the words are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom but that in the present context are assumed to refer generally to products of the descriptions stated in brackets. While every attempt will be made to ensure that the scrutiny is complete, the lists may contain other words which are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom or in other countries but which it has not been possible to identify.

Chile

Motor vehicles: tariff amendments. Decree 638 issued by the Chilean Ministry of Finance and published in the *Diario Oficial*, 3 July 1975, has changed the rates of duty affecting the following items in the Chilean customs tariff list:

Tariff no.	Description	New *ad valorem* rate
87.02.01.00 (01)	Motor vehicles to be used as taxis	70% (previously 25%)
87.02.02.00 (99)	Motor vehicles Other	80% (previously 60%)
87.04.89.00	Bodyworks and chassis with engine Others	30% (previously 120%)
87.05.02.00 (01)	Bodyworks and chassis for buses	30% (previously 120%)
87.05.89.00 (89)	Bodyworks and chassis Others	30% (previously 120%)

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European Community

EEC/Sri Lanka: five year commercial co-operation agreement

The Community and Sri Lanka signed a five year commercial co-operation agreement in Brussels on 22 July.

Like the commercial co-operation agreement with India, which came into force in April 1974, the agreement with Sri Lanka was prompted by the Joint Declaration of Intent annexed to the Treaty of Accession concerning the development of the Community's trade relations with independent developing Commonwealth countries in Asia. Similar agreements have also been negotiated with certain non-Commonwealth countries, and the most recent of these was with Mexico on 15 July*.

Trade promotion

The agreement confirms (Article 2) that the parties will continue to grant each other most favoured nation treatment 'in accordance with the provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.' It further provides (Article 3) for the parties 'to grant each other the highest degree of liberalisation' of trade which they applied to third countries in general, and both (Article 4) undertake to carry out particular measures for the promotion and diversification of mutual trade.

Economic co-operation

Several articles of the agreement relate to economic co-operation in general and include provision for co-operation in third countries.

Joint Commission

To ensure 'the proper functioning' of the agreement and the practical implementation of its objectives, a Joint Commission of representatives of both parties is to be set up, meeting at least once a year. Its tasks will include studying ways for overcoming non-tariff and quasi-tariff barriers to trade, and the supervision of any sectoral agreements concluded between the parties.

Other provisions

In documents annexed to the agreement the Community undertakes to bear the interests of Sri Lanka in mind when reviewing the Generalised Scheme of Preferences, and to maintain the existing tariff reductions or suspensions on certain products of particular interest to Sri Lanka.

* A report on the EEC/Mexico agreement appeared in the 25 July issue of *Trade and Industry*.

UK/Sri Lanka trade

£ million

	Exports to Sri Lanka 1973	1974	Imports from Sri Lanka 1973	1974
Total	10.2	10.0	23.0	34.0
*Main commodities**				
Transport				
motor vehicle parts	1.3	1.1		
other	0.7	0.6		
Machinery	2.9	2.5		
Tea			14.2	18.5
Coconuts edible			2.4	5.6
coir			1.5	1.7
oil			0.5	0.3
Rubber			0.7	0.7

* Apart from motor vehicle parts, no one commodity forms a major export item to Sri Lanka from the UK.

Community reach agreement on joint approach to raw materials question

Agreement on the basic principles and measures of a joint Community approach to the question of raw materials and development co-operation was reached by EEC Foreign Ministers on 22 July.

It sets out the Community's position in the current review of international economic relations between industrialised and developing countries in preparation for the seventh special session of the United Nations General Assembly due to open in New York on 1 September.

The main feature of the agreement is the Community's readiness to look at commodities case by case to see what measures, such as commodity agreements, could be applied in order to limit excessive price fluctuations.

The Community is also willing to promote and participate in international action to deal with the problem of instability in export earnings by developing countries. To this end they agreed to work for an improvement of the International Monetary Fund's compensatory financing mechanism and the adoption of specific measures to help the poorest developing countries.

Agreement on a Community position in the field of raw materials and development co-operation follows the statement issued by the nine EEC Heads of Government after the European Council meeting in Brussels on 17 July. 'The aim to be pursued by the Community and the Member States,' they said, 'is the achievement of real progress towards a more balanced and equitable pattern of international economic relations, which will involve strengthening the position of the developing countries.'

Reprints of 'T & I' articles

Reprints of *Trade and Industry* articles should be ordered within one week of publication from: Director of Publications (PI), HMSO, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London, EC1P 1BN. Reprints cost £7 for 250 copies of a page or part-page, plus 50p for each additional 125 copies; carriage extra.

New budgetary powers for European Assembly

New budgetary powers will be given to the European Assembly under a treaty signed by the Community's Foreign Ministers on 22 July. The new powers, which strengthen those set out in Article 203 of the Treaty of Rome, as amended by the Luxembourg Budget Treaty of 1970, which itself came into effect with the Community's current (1975) financial year, remain subject to ratification by the Parliaments of each of the Member States.

Power to reject

The new treaty enables the Assembly to reject by two-thirds of the votes of a majority of its members the EEC's draft annual budget and to ask for the submission of a new draft.

'Obligatory' expenditure

At the same time the Assembly has acquired limited new powers in respect of the Community's so-called 'obligatory' expenditure, or expenditure necessarily resulting from the Treaty of Rome or Acts adopted in accordance with it. Assembly modifications not involving an increase in the total of this expenditure will be accepted unless rejected by a qualified majority vote in the Council, which will continue to have the final say over both the level and composition of obligatory expenditure. The Assembly will continue to have limited power to make amendments to remaining expenditure, known as 'non-obligatory' expenditure.

Audit Court

In addition to the Assembly's new budgetary powers, the treaty will also establish an Audit Court to ensure more stringent control of Community expenditure

EEC research grants for UK coal and steel industries

The European Community has awarded grants totalling £255,231 to finance five programmes of social research in the UK coal and steel industries.

The sum of £29,775 will go to the British Steel Corporation for a study to be conducted in London on the prevention of accidents by job design in the development of new plant.

A further £225,456 will go to the Institute of Occupational Medicine in Edinburgh for four research projects. These are to include the investigation of coal face equipment and the resultant effects on work organisation, a study of visual requirements and lighting standards, as well as thermal conditions, in mining operations, and an investigation of stress on coal face workers.

Social research

These allocations come from a fund of 9 million units of account (approximately £3.75 million) made available last December for the Community's Ergonomics and Rehabilitation programme of social research. The programme is authorised under Article 55 of the European Coal and Steel Community Treaty, which empowers the Commission to promote technical and economic research relating to occupational safety in the coal and steel industries.

'Basket' unit of account adopted for most ECSC transactions

From 1 January 1976, the Commission are proposing to use the European unit of account based on a 'basket' of the currencies of all Member States for most European Coal and Steel Community transactions.

The 'basket' would apply to the calculation of levies under Article 49 of the ECSC Treaty and the establishment of the operational budget, but would not yet be used for the issue of loans. Under powers provided by Article 50 of the Treaty of Paris the EEC Commisssion takes decisions on the ECSC Unit after consulting the Council.

The 'basket' unit was first adopted by the Community's Finance Ministers on 18 March this year, for the operations of the European Development Fund (EDF), the aid fund for the 46 Lomé Convention countries, and for accounting and lending purposes in the European Investment Bank (EIB). The decision represented the first step away from the gold-based unit of account to a unit reflecting and based upon the currencies of the Nine*.

The value of the EDF/EIB unit is published daily in the 'C' series of the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

* An article describing the EDF/EIB 'basket' unit of account was published in the 9 May issue of *Trade and Industry*.

EEC Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Carlo Scarascia-Mugnozza, with the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, Shirley Williams, during his visit to London last week.

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The unit's address is: EEC Information Unit, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET. Tel: 01-215 4301 (six lines).

EEC 'green pound' devaluation boosts UK farmers' returns

With effect from 4 August this year, Britain and Ireland have agreed a 5 per cent downward adjustment in the representative rate used for the calculation of Community agricultural prices in their national currencies. The devaluation of the 'green pound', as the representative rate is known, was agreed by the Community's Agriculture Ministers on 22 July.

In Britain the devaluation will boost farmers' returns by over £100 million in a full year, increasing by 5.26 per cent the sterling value of Community support prices. This is expected to result in an average increase of about 1 per cent in British food prices.

In a statement to the House of Commons, Frederick Peart, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, explained, 'Many food prices in the shops will not be affected at all by this change, and the total effect on consumers will be small.'

He said the decision on the devaluation of the 'green pound' had been taken 'because an increase in producers' returns and support prices is needed in the interests of our future food supply. We remain ready to consider further adjustments should these be necessary to assure our agricultural industry of a fair return.'

New EC Legislation

Applications for copies of the *Official Journal of the European Communities* containing the legislation referred to should be made to HMSO and not to the inquiry points given in the notices.

The legislation listed below has been published in the 'Official Journal of the European Communities' as indicated against each item. The 'Official Journal' is now published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other Member States' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 4174/482/408). Other information may be obtained from the reference points given at the end of the item.

COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY. The texts of the following Regulations, Decisions and Directive which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

General. Regulation (EEC) 1818/75 on the agricultural levies, compensatory amounts and other import charges applicable to agricultural products and to certain goods resulting from their processing, contained in travellers' personal baggage. (*Official Journal* L185, 16 July 1975)

The *Official Journal* L185, 16 July 1975 contains the following corrigendum to the text of Regulation (EEC) 1409/75 laying down detailed rules for the purpose of taking into account certain monetary amounts charged on exports to non-member countries. (*Official Journal* L140, 31 May 1975)

Page 54, second 'whereas':

for: '. . . the total monetary compensatory amounts charged each month . . .'

read: '. . . the total monetary compensatory amounts established and to be charged each month . . .'

Page 54, Article 1(1):

for: '. . . the total monetary compensatory amounts charged by the Italian Republic . . .'

read: '. . . the total monetary compensatory amounts established and to be charged by the Italian Republic . . .'

Processed agricultural products. Regulation (EEC) 1755/75 adjusting the compensatory amounts and variable components, applicable during the third quarter of 1975 on the importation of goods covered by Regulation (EEC) 1059/69 and containing cereals. (*Official Journal* L180, 10 July 1975)

Pigmeat. Regulation (EEC) 1822/75 specifying the period of application for the system of guaranteed prices in the market in pigmeat in the United Kingdom. (*Official Journal* L185, 16 July 1975)

Animal health. The *Official Journal* L172, 3 July 1975 contains the text of Directive 75/379/EEC amending Directives 64/432/EEC, 64/433/EEC, 71/118/EEC, 72/461/EEC and 72/462/EEC as regards the validity of the procedures of the Standing Veterinary Committee as follows:

'In the following Articles the term "30 months" is replaced by "102 months".'

Article 14 of Directive 64/432/EEC of 26 June 1964 (*Official Journal* L121, 29 July 1964) on animal health problems affecting intra-Community trade in bovine animals and swine, as last amended by Directive 74/387/EEC (*Official Journal* L202, 24 July 1974);

Article 9b of Directive 64/433/EEC of 26 June 1964 (*Official Journal* L121, 29 July 1964) on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat, as last amended by Directive 74/387/EEC;

Article 13 of Directive 71/118/EEC of 15 February 1971 (*Official Journal* L55, 8 March 1971) on health problems affecting trade in fresh poultry-meat, as last amended by Directive 74/387/EEC;

Article 10 of Directive 72/461/EEC of 12 December 1972 (*Official Journal* L302, 31 December 1972) on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat, as last amended by Directive 74/387/EEC;

Article 31 of Directive 72/462/EEC of 12 December 1972 (*Official Journal* L302, 31 December 1972) on health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine animals and swine and fresh meat from third countries, as last amended by Directive 74/387/EEC.

Decision 75/380/EEC amending Decision 73/88/EEC (*Official Journal* L106, 20 April 1973) as regards the period of validity of the procedures of the Standing Veterinary Committee as follows:

'In Article 8 of Decision 73/88/EEC on action to protect Community livestock against certain foot-and-mouth diseases, as last amended by Decision 74/388/EEC (*Official Journal* L202, 24 July 1974) the term "30 months" is replaced by "102 months".' (*Official Journal* L172, 3 July 1975)

RULES OF COMPETITION. The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L159, 21 June 1975, contains the text of a Commission Decision relating to proceedings under Article 85 of the Treaty of Rome:

75/358/EEC – Stoves and Heaters (reference DGIV 712) concerning an agreement on trade in stoves and heaters made between manufacturers, importers, wholesalers and retailers of coal, oil and gas heating appliances for the Dutch market. The agreement was notified to the Commission in 1962 and was terminated at the end of 1972. The Decision relates to proceedings the bureau which administered the agreement took in 1969 and 1971 against two members for breach of the agreement.

Further information: Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, Fair Trading Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel. 01-215 5092).

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L172, 3 July 1975, contains the text of Commission Regulation 1699/75 dated 2 July 1975 amending Article 2(1) of Commission Regulation No. 27 of 3 May 1962. Regulation 27 concerns the implementation of Council Regulation 17 and gives the form, content and other arrangements for making application for negative clearance relating to the applicability of Article 85(1) of the Treaty of Rome and for notifying agree-

ments, decisions, or practices for which exemption is claimed under Article 85(3). Regulation 1699/75 increases from seven to 10 the number of copies of each application and notification and supporting documents which are required to be submitted to the Commission.

Further information: Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, Fair Trading Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel. 01-215 5092).

HARMONISATION OF LEGISLATION. Classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances. The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L183, 14 July 1975, contains the text of Directive 75/409/EEC amending for the fifth time Directive 67/548/EEC concerning the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances.

Further information. Health and Safety Executive, HSG/A Baynards House, 1 Chepstow Place, London, W.2 (tel. 01-229 3456 ext. 2).

Continuous totalising weighing machines. The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L183, 14 July 1975, contains the text of Directive 75/410/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to continuous totalising weighing machines.

Further information. Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, Weights and Measures Service, 26 Chapter Street, London SW1P 4NS (tel. 01-834 7032, ext. 138).

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS. The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L183, 14 July 1975, contains the text of Regulation (EEC) 1735/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 803/68 on the valuation of goods for customs purposes.

Further information. HM Customs and Excise, Valuation Division, Vintry House, Queen Street Place, London, E.C.4 (tel. 01-626 1515, ext. 2770).

Economic Indicators of the EEC

These tables have been prepared for the convenience of users who do not have access to the sources themselves; international publications (as indicated) have been used, supplemented by later reports where possible. In addition to the Member States of the EEC, the United States and Japan have been included for comparison.

The form of presentation adopted – indicators by subject – is for convenience only, and it must not be assumed that the indicators in the same table for different countries are strictly comparable. An attempt has been made to indicate major differences of definition, but the coverage and methods of collection vary considerably; this is partly due to different administrative procedures in various countries. Fuller details may be obtained from the sources indicated, and from the national publications of the countries concerned.

An extensive bibliography – 'Sources of Statistics: 2. The European Economic Community' – which lists publications in the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library of the Department of Trade, is obtainable on request to the library at Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (Tel: 01-248 5757, ext. 368). 'Statistical News' No. 21 (May 1973), published by the Central Statistical Office, contains a selected bibliography of statistical publications of the Commission of the European Communities.

TABLE 1 Industrial Production (Excluding construction) Seasonally adjusted

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium	Luxembourg	France[1]	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy[4]	Netherlands	United Kingdom[5]	EEC[3,4]	*United States*	*Japan*
Weights in EEC	3.9	0.3	18.1	39.9	0.6	13.3	4.5	19.4	100.0	—	—
Weights in total	1.3	0.1	6.0	13.2	0.2	4.4	1.5	6.4	33.1	*43.3*	*11.9*
1968	88	88	84	83	90	91	81	96	87	*99*	*74*
1969	97	100	94	94	97	94	91	99	95	*104*	*88*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	103	99	104	102	105	100	106	100	102	*100*	*103*
1972	109	103	112	106	109	104	111	102	106	*108*	*110*
1973	116	115	120	113	120	114	118	111	115	*118*	*129*
1974	121	119	123	112	123	120	121	108		*117*	*126*
1973 1st quarter	115	114	118	112	119	105	115	110	112	*115*	*123*
2nd quarter	114	112	120	113	120	114	116	111	114	*117*	*128*
3rd quarter	115	115	122	113	120	118	119	112	116	*119*	*131*
4th quarter	118	120	122	116	121	120	121	111	116	*119*	*135*
1974 1st quarter	122	124	125	114	127	123	122	104	116	*117*	*132*
2nd quarter	123	119	125	114	124	125	122	110	118	*118*	*129*
3rd quarter	122	120	126	112	121	119	124	111	116	*118*	*126*
4th quarter	117	114	118	109	119	111	120	107	111	*114*	*119*
1975 1st quarter	113	103	114	105	116(e)	109(e)	116	106	109	*105*	*109*
2nd quarter										*103*	
1974 January	123	125	125	114		125	121	102	116	*118*	*133*
February	123	127	125	114		122	122	104	118	*117*	*133*
March	123	121	123	113		123	123	107	117	*117*	*131*
April	126	118	124	113		126	119	109	118	*117*	*129*
May	121	118	126	113		123	122	109	118	*118*	*132*
June	125	121	125	114		125	124	110	121	*118*	*127*
July	124	121	129	112		123	123	111	117	*118*	*128*
August	119	118	129	111		112	125	111	115	*117*	*124*
September	122	121	122	112		123	124	109	116	*118*	*124*
October	123	120	122	110		117	122	109	114	*117*	*122*
November	117	115	117	111		111	123	109	113	*114*	*120*
December	110	107	114	107		106	116	105	108	*110*	*114*
1975 January	119	104	116	104		109	115	107	108	*107*	*109*
February	113	102	115	104		112	115	107	109	*104*	*109*
March	109	102	112	107		107	118	105	109	*103*	*110*
April		92	112	100		109	113	104		*103*	*111*
May			110	102				103		*102*	
June										*104*(e)	
% change latest three months:											
On previous three months	−2.6	−9.2	−3.2	−1.9	−2.5	+0.6	−2.3	−2.2	−2.7	*−1.6*	*−3.8*
On a year earlier	−7.6	−19.1	−10.5	−8.9	−8.7	−11.6	−5.0	−4.0	−7.1	*−12.5*	*−16.0*

[1]Excluding clothing, wood products and furniture.
[2]Mining and manufacturing only.
[3]Excluding Denmark.
[4]Revised figures for Italy from beginning of 1973.
[5]UK figures revised for 1970.
(e) Estimated.
Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.

TABLE 2 Unemployment seasonally adjusted

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium[1,2]	Den-mark[1,3]	France[3,4]	German F.R.[5]	Ireland[1]	Italy[6]	Nether-lands[3,5]	United Kingdom[5]	*United States*[6]	*Japan*[7]
1968	147	163	97	218	88	113	147	95	*69*	*108*
1969	120	129	85	120	86	108	115	94	*69*	*104*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	100	125	129	126	100	100	135	129	*122*	*111*
1972	123	125	145	166	114	113	235	142	*118*	*119*
1973	130	84	150	184	104	109	239	102	*105*	*107*
1974	148	186	190	391	114	91	294	101	*111*	*117*
1973 1st quarter	127	63	143	154	107	107	243	117	*108*	*111*
2nd quarter	128	104	147	174	105	133	237	106	*106*	*109*
3rd quarter	131	90	153	197	106	100	237	99	*105*	*106*
4th quarter	132	79	158	245	102	96	239	86	*104*	*101*
1974 1st quarter	131	80	168	287	105	86	276	96	*115*	*107*
2nd quarter	137	135	169	375	107	87	268	97	*114*	*111*
3rd quarter	151	204	181	468	114	91	300	106	*123*	*118*
4th quarter	173	326	235	553	133	99	335	107	*148*	*143*
1975 1st quarter	199	420	279	558	164	87	385	123	*187*	*152*
2nd quarter	230(e)		320(e)	805(e)			450(e)		*201*(e)	
1974 January	131	82	166	250	105	86	270	94	*116*	*105*
February	131	78	168	268	102		267	97	*116*	*107*
March	131	78	170	315	105		270	96	*113*	*109*
April	134	94	167	358	105	87	265	96	*111*	*110*
May	135	147	168	369	105		267	96	*115*	*111*
June	141	162	172	399	112		272	99	*116*	*112*
July	145	162	176	428	110	91	291	102	*119*	*114*
August	148	201	177	466	114		304	107	*120*	*118*
September	159	248	190	511	121		309	108	*130*	*121*
October	170	310	213	546	126	99	320	107	*136*	*130*
November	172	330	240	566	133		333	107	*147*	*142*
December	180	339	252	548	140		357		*162*	*156*
1975 January	186	431	267	505	157	87	374	119	*184*	*149*
February	197	395	278	556	167		389	124	*183*	*151*
March	214	433	292	613	171		393	127	*195*	*156*
April	225	438	305	744			407	134	*200*	*161*
May	239		319	812			461 (e)	145 (e)	*209*	
June	227(e)		335	858			483		*193*	
Rate %	4.0	4.2	4.1	4.7	6.3	2.7	4.6	3.3	*9.1*	*1.5*
% change latest three months										
On previous three months	+20.4	+15.1	+14.6	+44.2	+24.1	−12.1	+16.9	+16.0	*+17.2*	*+4.7*
On a year earlier	+169.5	+406.4	+89.2	+114.4	+58.7	+1.2	+68.0	+41.0	*+76.0*	*+43.6*

Note: Figures of total unemployment and unemployment rates are very sensitive to the particular measures used and the sources from which they are obtained. The figures in this table to a large extent reflect the different administrative systems and social-security provisions of the countries concerned.

[1]Insured unemployed. [2]Change of basis during period. [3]Monthly data are weekly averages. [4]Unfilled applications. [5]Registered unemployed.
[6]Based on results of sample survey. [7]Unemployment-insurance beneficiaries.
Numbers in latest month available as % of total employees (UK) and of total labour force (others). (e) Estimated. Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'

TABLE 3 Exports (fob) Special trade,[1] seasonally adjusted

US$ million*

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark[2]	France	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy	Nether-lands	United King-dom[2]	EEC	*United States*[2]	*Japan*[2]
1968	8,160	2,580	12,708	24,840	792	10,188	8,340	15,348	82,956	*34,416*	*12,972*
1969	10,068	2,952	15,024	29,052	888	11,724	9,960	17,520	97,200	*37,992*	*15,984*
1970	11,592	3,288	17,940	34,188	1,032	13,188	11,772	19,356	112,356	*43,224*	*19,320*
1971	12,081	3,609	20,592	39,009	1,308	15,177	13,953	22,356	128,084	*44,211*	*23,994*
1972	15,995	4,330	25,739	46,208	1,610	18 535	16,392	24,340	153,152	*49,676*	*28,591*
1973	22,317	6,129	35,948	67,701	2,127	22,188	23,946	28,227	210,684	*71,622*	*36,834*
1974	28,137	7,725	45,835	89,085	2,634	30,147	32,496 (e)	36,480	275,100	*98,763*	*55,278*
1973 1st quarter	4,782	1,317	7,772	14,022	465	4,398	5,535	6,497	45,015	*15,417*	*8,277*
2nd quarter	5,235	1,392	8,697	16,026	513	5,283	5,733	7,029	50,556	*16,863*	*8,763*
3rd quarter	6,147	1,722	9,684	18,681	549	6,111	6,108	7,416	57,063	*18,627*	*9,360*
4th quarter	6,153	1,698	9,954	18,702	600	6,396	6,570	7,250	58,011	*20,715*	*10,434*
1974 1st quarter	6,273	1,794	10,464	20,592	591	6,564	7,224	7,982	61,830	*22,455*	*11,298*
2nd quarter	7,393	1,896	11,205	22,803	636	7,176	8,355	9,355	69,459	*24,355*	*13,941*
3rd quarter	7,314	1,953	11,883	22,389	666	8,157	8,400	9,783	71,286	*25,254*	*14,545*
4th quarter	7,158	2,082	12,468	23,274	741	8,250	8,514	9,387	72,501	*26,700*	*15,498*
1975 1st quarter	7,842	2,163	13,437	23,163	768 (e)	8,154	6,129 (e)	10,647	73,047 (e)	*27,015*	*14,703*
2nd quarter			13,422 (e)					10,205		*25,325* (e)	
1974 January	1,926	530	3,440	6,971	178	1,902	2,199	2,501	19,652	*7,190*	*3,626*
February	1,991	633	3,375	6,757	207	2,140	2,495	2,848	20,454	*7,591*	*3,975*
March	2,264	642	3,505	6,913	205	2,333	2,532	3,070	21,523	*7,638*	*3,672*
April	2,451	603	3,634	7,683	212	2,402	2,786	3,191	22,962	*8,261*	*4,332*
May	2,495	628	3,707	7,997	202	1,190	2,790	3,329	23,338	*7,709*	*4,833*
June	2,487	631	3,826	7,231	217	2,517	2,861	3,304	23,074	*8,301*	*4,853*
July	2,456	637	3,877	7,613	237	2,919	2,982	3,422	24,135	*8,401*	*4,877*
August	2,523	648	3,966	7,578	221	2,606	2,556	3,401	23,533	*8,447*	*5,005*
September	2,339	669	4,039	7,197	208	2,643	2,861	3,526	23,577	*8,460*	*4,664*
October	2,337	674	3,876	7,401	223	2,680	2,793	3,376	23,365	*8,698*	*5,353*
November	2,514	731	4,054	8,076	249	2,671	2,733	3,016	24,252	*9,159*	*5,246*
December	2,307	677	4,537	7,796	269	2,898	2,985	3,228	24,883	*8,841*	*4,898*
1975 January	2,640	732	4,427	7,980	284	2,713	3,149	3,712	25,807	*9,419*	*5,155*
February	2,783	748	4,669	7,994	265	2,887		3,475		*8,846*	*4,908*
March	2,421	684	4,339	7,190	215	2,914		3,748		*8,749*	*4,639*
April		809	4,550	8,503	273	2,782		3,197		*8,610*	*4,789*
May			4,225 (e)		283 (e)			3,682		*8,570* (e)	*4,420* (e)
June			4,647 (e)					3,284		*8,145* (e)	
% change in dollar terms latest three months											
On previous three months	+9.6	+4.7	−3.8	−0.7	−5.8	+3.6	+8.0	−7.1	+6.3	*−6.3*	*−7.4*
On a year earlier	+26.9	+19.3	+20.9	+10.9	+24.6	+24.8	+41.0	+3.5	+23.6	*+4.3*	*+7.9*
% change in national currencies latest three months											
On previous three months	+11.3	+1.8	−0.1	+1.0	−2.29	+1.6	−7.8	−3.7	−0.7	*−6.3*	*−8.3*
On a earlier year	+16.8	+7.9	+20.2	+4.4	+29.75	+20.2	+27.5	+7.8	+8.1	*+4.3*	*+11.8*

[1]For most purposes special trade may be defined as trade excluding re-exports. [2]General trade. [3]Weighted average of percentage changes in national currencies.
* All values are expressed in US dollars, making use of IMF parity rates as quoted in 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.
(e) estimated.

Source: United Kingdom: Department of Trade
All others: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'

TABLE 4 Imports (cif) Special trade[1], seasonally adjusted — US$ million*

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark[2]	France	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy	Nether-lands	United Kingdom[2]	EEC	*United States[2,3]*	*Japan[2]*
1968	8,304	3,216	13,980	20,148	1,176	10,248	9,288	18,960	85,320	*33,108*	*12,984*
1969	9,984	3,804	17,388	24,924	1,416	12,444	10,992	19,956	100,908	*36,048*	*15,024*
1970	11,352	4,380	19,116	29,808	1,572	14,940	13,392	21,720	116,280	*39,960*	*18,876*
1971	12,390	4,476	21,261	34,356	1,838	16,026	15,159	23,897	129,403	*45,633*	*19,716*
1972	14,903	4,986	26,696	39,759	2,113	19,252	17,127	27,831	152,643	*55,819*	*23,463*
1973	21,762	7,425	37,587	54,465	2,775	27,858	24,419	38,724	215,013	*69,126*	*38,331*
1974	28,890	9,393	52,980	69,006	3,801	41,076	3,3288 (e)	54,627	292,989 (e)	*77,420*	*62,034*
1973 1st quarter	4,668	1,569	7,941	11,949	615	5,373	5,379	8,127	45,624	*16,017*	*7,428*
2nd quarter	5,202	1 776	9,000	13,002	681	6,777	5,724	9,438	51,597	*16,581*	*9,063*
3rd quarter	5,868	1,992	10 215	14,436	741	7,713	6,678	10,224	57,867	*17,619*	*10,170*
4th quarter	6,024	2,088	10,431	15,078	738	7,995	6,633	10,935	59,925	*18,909*	*11,670*
1974 1st quarter	6,456	2,361	11,952	15,378	831	9,336	7,200	12,822	65,616	*21,606*	*14,238*
2n d quarter	7,707	2,415	13,290	17,469	1,014	10,308	8,571	14,049	75,087	*24,858*	*16,155*
3rd quarter	7,548	2 331	14,088	17,856	1,041	11,223	8,859	13,933	77,154	*27,213*	*15,717*
4th quarter	7,179	2,286	13,650	18,234	915	10,209	8,658	13,943	75,132	*27,408*	*15,864*
1975 1st quarter	7,317	2,424	13,824	18,465	979	9,084	8,913 (e)	13,568	74,898 (e)	*25,008*	*14,811*
2nd quarter								12,715		*23,032* (e)	
1974 January	2,181	784	3,755	5,074	233	2,439	2,252	3,552	20,270	*6,456*	*3,987*
February	2,148	776	3,968	4,814	272	3,337	2,348	4,123	21,786	*7,314*	*5,135*
March	2,188	803	4,208	5,291	334	3,575	2,658	4,543	23,600	*7,746*	*4,914*
April	2,389	818	4,394	5,666	327	3,756	2,844	4,541	24,735	*8,088*	*5,431*
May	2,726	762	4,453	5,961	329	2,385	2,339	4,804	23,759	*8,356*	*5,527*
June	2,576	807	4,453	5,775	343	3,518	2,946	4,704	25,122	*8,505*	*5,379*
July	2,675	795	4,786	5,926	357	4,237	3,194	4,751	26,721	*8,967*	*5,541*
August	2,404	810	4,730	6,197	358	3,493	2,732	4,618	25,343	*9,528*	*5,181*
September	2,468	727	4,572	5,734	330	3,494	2,932	4,564	24,969	*8,951*	*4,994*
October	2,349	759	4,514	6,010	308	3,564	2,861	4,760	25,083	*8,732*	*5,220*
November	2,362	788	4,477	6,193	291	3,191	2,872	4,691	24,835	*9,311*	*5,357*
December	2,468	738	4,660	6,031	316	3,454	2,923	4,493	25,214	*9,365*	*5,289*
1975 January	2,440	850	4,742	6,120	340	2,998	3,090	4,883	25,468	*9,831*	*5,153*
February	2,476	850	4,669	6,551	349	2,917		4,677		*7,797*	*4,793*
March	2,401	722	4,412	5,794	290	3,167		4,362		*7,381*	*4,865*
April		919	4,549	7,333	325	3,061		4,312		*7,917*	*4,599*
May			4,153 (e)		348			4,225		*8,010* (e)	*4,548* (e)
June								4,178		*7,093* (e)	
% Change in dollar terms latest three months											
On previous three months	+1.9	+4.8	−6.2	+7.3	−4.2	−5.2	−4.2	−8.7	−0.2	*−8.0*	*−8.0*
On a year earlier	+12.3	+3.9	+0.5	+24.8	−2.7	−14.3	+38.7	−9.5	+28.0	*−7.7*	*−11.7*
% change in national currencies latest three months											
On previous three months	+11.7	+9.8	−9.8	+6.5	−0.66	−1.6	+12.5	−15.1	−1.3	*−8.0*	*−14.9*
On a year earlier	+42.5	+24.0	−21.5	+38.4	+1.3	+7.0	−4.5	+6.4	+20.3	*−7.7*	*−4.8*

[1]For most purposes special trade may be defined as trade excluding re-exports. [2]General trade. [3]*fob.* [4]Weighted average of percentage changes in national currencies.
* All values are expressed in US dollars with the use of IMF parity rates as quoted in 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.
(e) estimated.
Source: United Kingdom: Department of Trade. All others: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'

TABLE 5 Balance of Payments on Current Account — US$ million (unadjusted)

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark	France	German F.R.	Ireland	Italy	Nether-lands	United Kingdom	EEC	*United States*	*Japan*
1968	28	−216	−1,059	2,964	−60	2,688	65	−682	3.432	*725*	*1,048*
1969	74	−410	−1,798	1.931	−197	2,406	31	1,068	2,723	*540*	*2,119*
1970	724	−544	+297	729	−194	902	−518	1,661	2,470	*414*	*1,970*
1971	851	−422	530	323	208	2,041	−233	2,588	5,143	*−2,800*	*5,821*
1972	1,113	−66	284	1,041	−139	2,266	1,054	221	4,314	*−8.350*	*6,624*
1973	1,098	−472	−694	4,576	−216	−2,546	1,750	−3,569	865 (e)	*453*	*−133*
1974	813	−987	−6,332(e)	9,358			1,620	−8,948 (e)		*−4.025*	*−4,549*
1972 1st quarter	279	−39	−325	135		811	17	−73		*−1,852*	*959*
2nd quarter	215	54	445	78		903	251	476		*−2,471*	*1,212*
3rd quarter	235	−36	−3	−306		782	393	−355		*−3,330*	*2,085*
4th quarter	384	−46	167	1,135		−230	389	173		*−697*	*2,369*
1973 1st quarter	353	−151	−223	596		−934	396	−890		*−261*	*497*
2nd quarter	226	−179	281	1,776		−838	574	−471		*−869*	*−416*
3rd quarter	200	69	−546	852		−331	−41	−603		*−1,074*	*101*
4th quarter	318	−211	205	1,951		−443	822	−1,165		*2,656*	*−315*
1974 1st quarter	349	−519	−498	2,750		−2,630	334	−2,479		*1,005*	*−3,274*
2nd quarter	−129	−311	−3,442	2,237		−2,478	388	−2,317		*−1,993*	*−2,377*
3rd quarter	292	−141	−1,897	872		−1,225	453	−2,022		*−4,234*	*−90*
4th quarter	302	−16	−485(e)	−3,499			445	−2,132		*1,198*	*1,192*
1975 1st quarter				2,373				−1,340			

Source: UK: Central Statistical Office. All others: IMF International Financial Statistics.

Government Publications in London

from

Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 49 High Holborn WC1V 6HB

TABLE 6 Export Unit Values of Manufactures

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium/ Luxembourg		France		German F.R.		Italy		Netherlands		United Kingdom		*United States*	*Japan*	
	US$	Bfrs.	US$	frs.	US$	D.M.	US$	lire	US$	Gdrs.	US$	£	US$	US$	Yen
1968	92	92	96	85	88	96	90	90	95	95	90	90	*91*	*90*	*90*
1969	85	85	97	90	92	98	93	93	97	97	93	93	*95*	*94*	*94*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*	*100*
1971	98	96	105	105	108	103	106	105	104	101	107	105	*102*	*104*	*101*
1972	112	99	116	107	117	103	114	106	117	105	116	111	*104*	*116*	*99*
1973	137	107	140	113	147	108	127	118	139	108	127	124	*113*	*141*	*107*
1974	171 (e)	133 (e)			172 (e)	121 (e)					153 (e)	157 (e)	*137*	*181* (e)	*147* (e)
1972 1st quarter	110	97	114	105	117	103	112	105	117	105	119	110	*104*	*112*	*96*
2nd quarter	112	99	114	105	116	102	113	105	116	104	120	111	*105*	*115*	*98*
3rd quarter	112	98	115	106	118	104	114	106	117	105	116	118	*104*	*117*	*100*
4th quarter	114	101	117	108	117	103	114	106	117	105	113	115	*107*	*119*	*102*
1973 1st quarter	122	102	126	110	124	103	119	110	124	105	119	118	*107*	*125*	*100*
2nd quarter	134	105	141	112	141	105	121	115	135	107	129	121	*111*	*136*	*100*
3rd quarter	148	108	153	115	162	106	131	120	148	124	131	127	*114*	*147*	*108*
4th quarter	147	113	152	121	157	109	133	125	152	112	132	133	*120*	*154*	*118*
1974 1st quarter	150	124	141	125	154	114	133	137	163	128	134	141	*127*	*165*	*134*
2nd quarter	173	132	158	139	175	120	148	151	179	131	153	153	*132*	*183*	*142*
3rd quarter	177	137	170	146	175	125	163	170	186	137	159	162	*142*	*185*	*151*
4th quarter	183	137			183	124					165	170	*148*	*190*	*160*
1975 1st quarter											178	179	*155*		
% change latest 3 months:															
On previous 3 months	+3.4	Nil	+7.6	+5.0	+4.6	−0.8	+10.1	+12.6	+3.9	+4.6	+7.9	+5.3	*+4.7*	*+2.7*	*+6.0*
On a year earlier	+24.5	+21.2	+11.1	+27.0	+16.6	+13.8	+24.4	+41.7	+25.7	+10.5	+32.8	+27.0	*+22.0*	*+23.4*	*+35.6*

(e) estimated.

Source: Dollar value: 'United Nations Monthly Bulletin'. National currency: Dollar values converted at OECD exchange rates as quoted in 'Series A'

TABLE 7 Consumer prices All goods and services

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium[1]	Luxembourg[1]	Denmark	France[2]	German F.R.	Ireland	Italy	Netherlands	United Kingdom	*United States*	*Japan*[2]
1968	92	93	91	89	93	86	93	89	90	*90*	*88*
1969	96	96	94	95	96	92	95	96	94	*94*	*93*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	104	105	106	105	105	109	105	108	109	*104*	*106*
1972	110	110	113	112	111	118	111	116	117	*108*	*111*
1973	118	117	123	120	119	132	123	125	128	*114*	*124*
1974	113	128	142	136	127	154	146	137	148	*127*	*154*
1973 1st quarter	115	114	118	116	116	126	118	121	123	*111*	*117*
2nd quarter	117	117	122	118	119	130	121	125	127	*113*	*123*
3rd quarter	118	117	125	121	119	133	124	126	129	*116*	*126*
4th quarter	121	119	129	124	122	137	128	129	133	*118*	*132*
1974 1st quarter	125	123	134	129	125	144	135	132	139	*122*	*144*
2nd quarter	130	127	140	135	127	151	141	136	147	*125*	*151*
3rd quarter	136	129	144	139	128	157	150	138	151	*129*	*156*
4th quarter	140	133	149	143	130	165	159	143	158	*133*	*163*
1975 1st quarter	144	136	152	147	132	178	165	146	167	*135*	*165*
2nd quarter						189			183	*137*	
1974 January	123	121	134	127	124		132	130	137	*120*	*141*
February	125	124	134	129	125	144	134	131	139	*122*	*146*
March	126	124	135	131	125		138	134	140	*123*	*147*
April	128	126	137	133	126		140	135	145	*124*	*151*
May	130	127	139	134	127	151	142	136	147	*125*	*150*
June	132	128	142	136	127		144	137	149	*126*	*151*
July	134	129	143	138	128		146	137	150	*127*	*154*
August	136	129	144	139	128	157	150	138	150	*129*	*156*
September	137	130	147	140	128		154	140	152	*130*	*158*
October	139	131	148	142	129		157	142	155	*132*	*162*
November	140	133	151	143	130	165	159	143	158	*133*	*163*
December	141	134	152	144	130		161	144	160	*134*	*164*
1975 January	143	135	151	146	131		163	145	164	*134*	*164*
February	144	137	152	147	132	178	166	145	167	*135*	*165*
March	145	138	153	148	133		166	147	170	*136*	*167*
April	147	139	155	150	134		168	149	177	*136*	*170*
May	148	140		151	134	189	169	150	184	*137*	*171*
June									188	*138*	
% change latest three months:											
On previous three months	+2.8	+2.9	+1.3	+2.5	+1.8	+6.1	+2.7	+3.0	+9.5	*+1.5*	*+3.0*
On a year earlier	+14.3	+10.4	+13.3	+12.7	+6.0	+24.5	+20.1	+10.3	+24.3	*+9.5*	*+13.8*

[1] Excluding rent. [2] Change of basis during period. (e) estimated.

Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'

TABLE 8 Value of retail sales Current prices, seasonally adjusted

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium[1]/ Luxem-bourg	Denmark	France[2]	German F.R.[3]	Ireland[4]	Italy[4 7]	Nether-lands	Great Britain[5]	*United States*	*Japan*
1968	83	82	88	82	83	84	80	89	*92*	*80*
1969	90	90	97	90	91	90	89	93	*95*	*89*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	108	108	104	111	111	111	108	109	*109*	*110*
1972	120	119	110	120	126	125	121	123	*119*	*118*
1973	138	134	117	131	148	152	132	139	*134*	*145*
1974	159	147	133	138	168	189	146	161	*143*	*165*
1973 1st quarter	133	128	112	132	140	123	127	135	*132*	*135*
2nd quarter	135	130	116	130	147	141	130	133	*132*	*139*
3rd quarter	136	137	114	131	149	140	132	140	*136*	*147*
4th quarter	144	141	124	131	154	204	137	147	*137*	*156*
1974 1st quarter	151	144	127	136	158	160	140	150	*138*	*157*
2nd quarter	156	148	131	136	165	166	144	154	*142*	*160*
3rd quarter	161	148	136	140	169	181	150	165	*148*	*170*
4th quarter	166	152	139	142	175	236	149	174	*142*	*173*
1975 1st quarter		162	141	146	183			182	*148*(e)	*185*
1974 January	150	144	130	141	154	153	138	147	*137*	*160*
February	150	146	128	132	161	153	142	150	*138*	*156*
March	152	141	127	134	158	175	140	151	*140*	*154*
April	154	148	129	138	169	183	143	152	*142*	*154*
May	156	151	133	140	163	179	145	152	*143*	*160*
June	157	146	130	130	163	173	144	157	*142*	*165*
July	162	149	135	142	165	184	151	160	*148*	*167*
August	157	148	133	140	172	162	150	165	*150*	*167*
September	164	147	140	140	171	196	151	168	*148*	*177*
October	168	151	146	146	175	225	151	171	*146*	*170*
November	158	153	136	143	177	196	147	175	*142*	*174*
December	171	151	136	139	173	288	148	174	*137*	*174*
1975 January	174	160	139	150	185	168	153	181	*147*	*182*
February		163	142	144	182	169	156	182	*150*	*184*
March		161	143	143	183			182	*146*	*189*
April		163	145					202	*149*	*189*
May									*152*	
% change latest three months:										
On previous three months	+2.9	+5.0	+4.6	+2.1	+4.8	+1.3	+1.8	+7.0	*+3.0*	*+6.0*
On a year earlier	+13.8	+12.0	+12.0	+7.4	+16.3	+11.8	+9.3	+25.0	*+5.2*	*+21.1*

[1] Department stores. [2] Department and chainstores. [3] Excluding West Berlin. [4] Average weekly sales. [5] Excluding motor vehicles.
[6] Revised series, including chainstores. [7] Not Seasonally adjusted

Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'

TABLE 9 Earnings/wages per head in manufacturing

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark[1, 2, 8]	France[8]	German F.R.[6] †	Ireland[2]	Italy[7]	Nether-lands[3]	United Kingdom†	*United States*[4]	*Japan*[5] †
1968	84	81	82	79	76	78	82	81	*90*	*73*
1969	92	90	91	87	86	83	90	89	*95*	*86*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	111	115	110	116	116	113	112	111	*106*	*114*
1972	126	129	120	121	133	124	126	126	*113*	*132*
1973	147	153	135	136	159	154	142	143	*121*	*163*
1974	178	188	159	152	191	189	168	166	*131*	*206*
1971 1st quarter	107	108	104	108	110	109	107	108	*104*	*108*
2ndquarter	110	114	107	109	114	111	110	111	*106*	*111*
3rd quarter	112	117	110	113	118	114	114	112	*106*	*116*
4th quarter	115	121	113	112	122	116	116	115	*108*	*117*
1972 1st quarter	122	123	115	116	127	119	122	121	*111*	*123*
2nd quarter	124	128	118	119	131	121	124	124	*112*	*129*
3rd quarter	127	130	121	122	135	126	128	127	*113*	*131*
4th quarter	132	134	125	125	140	130	129	131	*116*	*138*
1973 1st quarter	140	137	129	130	145	137	137	134	*118*	*146*
2nd quarter	144	151	133	134	157	151	140	139	*120*	*155*
3rd quarter	149	160	138	137	164	161	146	144	*122*	*162*
4th quarter	154	168	143	141	168	168	148	150	*124*	*175*
1974 1st quarter	162	174	147	142	172	176	158	147	*126*	*173*
2nd quarter	173	186	155	151	188	184	166	159	*129*	*201*
3rd quarter	184	191	164	155	196	194	174	172	*133*	*215*
4th quarter	193	202	168	160	207	202	175	185	*137*	*217*
1975 1st quarter		211		157		225	184	194	*139*	*229*
% change latest three months:										
On previous three months	+4.9	+4.5	+2.4	−1.9	+5.6	+11.4	+5.1	+4.9	*+1.5*	*+5.7*
On a year earlier	+25.3	+21.3	+17.5	+10.6	+23.2	+27.8	+16.5	+32.0	*+10.3*	*+32.3*

† Seasonally adjusted.
[1] Including mining. [2] Earnings. [3] Hourly earnings industry: males. [4] Gross hourly earnings per productive worker. [5] Monthly earnings in manufacturing: regular workers.
[6] Wages and salaries per employed person in industry, excluding construction, public gas and electricity undertakings. [7] Hourly-rates times average daily hours worked.
[8] Revised series.

Source: All countries 'OECD Main Economic Indicators', except German Federal Republic ('Monatsberichte der Deutschen Bundesbank', Reihe 4), Italy ('I.L.O. Yearbook' and 'M.E.I.') and United Kingdom ('Department of Employment Gazette').

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series expressed as index numbers and seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
			Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Distributive and service industries	Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Wholesalers	of which: Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index	1970	1970	1970	1970	1970							
£m in base year		31,365	9 223	2,130	2,089	series in £ million				series in £ million		
1970	100	100	100	100	100	439	324	68	−23	698	−11	709
1971	101	103	100	94	103	76	−126	52	−4	1,052	273	778
1972	104	109	106	85	116	−54	−205	48	3	82	−683	765
1973	110	114	110	90	121	706	374	32	242	−1,113	−2,301	1,188
1974	110	114	108	100	112	288	468	47	−124	−3,771	−5,259	1,488
1972 2nd qtr.	104	108	106	84	115	−31	−106	1	38	123	−67	190
3rd qtr.	104	110	106	82	116	−7	−42	6	−13	−109	−284	175
4th qtr.	107	111	108	83	123	18	7	24	−6	−17	−209	192
1973 1st qtr.	110	115	112	89	127	279	146	11	32	−104	−354	170
2nd qtr.	109	112	107	86	113	191	61	−9	163	−209	−401	192
3rd qtr.	110	114	111	91	120	102	68	6	22	−229	−569	340
4th qtr.	110	114	111	94	125	134	99	24	25	−491	−977	486
1974 1st qtr.	108	113	112	99	111	−249	−100	8	−73	−935	−1,279	344
2nd qtr.	110	112	105	100	107	193	138	42	11	−955	−1,316	361
3rd qtr.	112	114	106	99	118	240	299	−27	−28	−830	−1,210	380
4th qtr.	111	116	107	103	112	04	130	23	−34	−1,051	−1,454	403
1975 1st qtr.	111	116 p	108	96	98	−79	51	−35	−65	−342	−716	374
2nd qtr.										−116	−476	360 p
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	+0.2	+2.7	+1.9	N/C	−6.7							
on a year earlier	+2.8	+2.2	−3.6	+3.1	−11.0							

	Index of industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and costs					Labour			Trade§	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Index of retail prices	% increase on a year earlier	Index of wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: basic materials and fuel used‡	Index of wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: manufactured products: home sales‡	Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)‡	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: mid-month count	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: % of total employees	Unfilled vacancies for adults: mid-month count	Exports	Imports
			monthly averages		Index‡					thousands		thousands	totals	
Base of index	1970	1970	1971		Jan. 1974		1970	1970	31 July 1972				Series in	
£m in base year			15,895	thousands						thousands		thousands	£ million	
1971	100.5	99.6	100.0	108.5	153.4†	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	737	3.2	129	8,801	8,528
1972	102.6	102.0	105.8	138.6	164.3†	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	816	3.6	145	9,147	9,830
1973	110.2	110.5	110.7	137.3	179.4†	9.2	144.5	123.2•	115.6	581	2.6	304	11,512	13,813
1974	106.4	107.9	109.9	102.7	108.5	16.0	215.3	152.0	138.7	572+	2.5+	298+	15,589	20,848
1973 4th qtr.	109.8	110.5	112.0	119	186.8†	10.3	167.6	129.1	121.0	494	2.2	361	3,048	4,025
1974 1st qtr.	103.7	106.0	109.8	103	101.4	12.9	212.5	138.3	125.0	546	2.4	286	3,500	4,779
2nd qtr.	108.0	109.6	107.3	104	107.5	15.8	213.7	148.9	132.3	552	2.4	311	3,900	5,216
3rd qtr.	108.7	110.3	111.0	109	110.2	17.0	212.9	156.1	144.0	592	2.6	306	4,161	5,371
4th qtr.	105.3	106.1	111.6	96	115.1	18.2	222.1	164.9	153.5	..	..	..	4,029	5,482
1975 1st qtr.	104.5	105.5	111.5	106	122.0	20.3	220.6	176.0	163.6	701	3.1	..	4,571	5,287
2nd qtr.			109.2 p	91	133.6	24.3	225.4	186.2	175.6	814	3.6	166	4,390	4,866
1974 Aug.	109.1	111.2	111.4	102	109.8	16.9	213.7	156.1	145.6	597	2.6	301	1,378	1,787
Sept.	107.7	109.0	112.2	118	111.0	17.1	212.8	158.6	146.4	603	2.7	301	1,446	1,816
Oct.	106.7	107.1	111.4	102	113.2	17.1	220.1	162.2	148.7	607	2.7	294	1,347	1,841
Nov.	106.2	107.3	112.8	98	115.2	18.3	223.8	164.8	153.9	613	2.7	273	1,296	1,896
Dec.	102.9	103.8	110.8	87	116.9	19.1	222.5	167.6	158.0	..	..	..	1,386	1,745
1975 Jan.	105.0	106.8	113.0	109	119.9	19.9	222.1	173.0	159.7	678 e	3.0	..	1.571	1,856
Feb.	105.0	106.4	112.3	113	121.9	19.9	218.8	175.9	162.0	705	3.1	192	1,451	1,765
Mar.	103.4	103.3	109.4	97	124.3	21.2	221.9	179.2	169.0	722	3.2	186	1,549	1,666
Apr.	102.0	102.6	120.2	89	129.1	21.7	222.9	182.5	169.8	760	3.3	173	1,364	1,655
May	101.2	101.5	102.5	90	134.5	25.0	225.8 p	187.3 p	175.8	817	3.6	156	1.586	1,602
June			105 p	95	137.1	26.1	227.5 p	188.8 p	181.1	864	3.8	141	1,440 p	1,609 p
July					8 + 9			1		938	4.1	129		
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	−2.0	−3.0	−1.2	−14.1	+9.5		+2.2	+5.8	+7.3	+19.8		−22.9	+1††	−8½††
on a year earlier	−4.5	−5.8	+2.4	−12.5	+24.3		+5.5	+25.1	+32.7	+55.2		−55.2	+15††	−6††

(‡) Not seasonally adjusted. (§) On a balance of payments basis. • After April 1973, affected by changes due to VAT. † Base of index Jan. 1962 = 100.
+ Average of 11 months. e Figure is estimate. †† Latest 4 months on previous 3 months and on 4 months on year earlier.

Motor vehicle output in June 1975

Symbols used in all statistical tables

.. not available	r revised
— nil or less than half the final digit shown	* five week period
p provisional	ø fifty-three week period

Car production in June made a partial recovery (in both unadjusted and seasonally adjusted terms) from the extremely low level reached in May. However, although losses from industrial disputes were very much lower than in the previous month, car production in June remained at a historically depressed level, reflecting the continuing weakness of demand for new cars in the UK. Commercial vehicle production fell back somewhat from the moderate levels recorded over the previous three months.

In the first six months of 1975 car output was 19 per cent below that in the first half of 1974, while commercial vehicle output showed a rise of 4 per cent between the two periods.

In the five weeks to 28 June car output at 109,443 units (21,888 per week) was a third lower than in June 1974, while commercial vehicle output at 34,852 (6,970 per week) was 16 per cent lower than a year earlier.

(The comments which follow are based on the seasonally adjusted figures in Table 2.)

Cars

Although 30 per cent above the very low May figure, car production in June remained nearly 30 per cent below the average monthly level of output during 1974. For the second month in succession, fewer units were produced for the home market than for export markets.

In the second quarter of 1975 as a whole, total car production fell by 25 per cent from the first quarter's level, reflecting the losses arising from industrial disputes in May and the weakness of demand for cars, particularly in the home market. These factors had less impact on production for export which showed an increase of 1 per cent between the two quarters, while production for the home market fell by 40 per cent.

Commercial vehicles

Output fell back slightly in June and, at 28,200 units, was 16 per cent below the 1974 monthly average. Comparing the second quarter as a whole with the first quarter, commercial vehicle production in total fell by 13 per cent. Production for export was a little lower, by 3 per cent, while home market output fell sharply, by 21 per cent, reflecting the current weakness of investment demand.

TABLE 1 Recorded production

Production figures of road motor vehicles cover complete vehicles, chassis with engines for delivery as such and un-assembled vehicles for export. Road tractors are included but battery operated road vehicles are excluded.

Production for export may differ from actual exports as recorded in the Overseas Trade Statistics because of differences in timing and coverage.

		Passenger cars (including taxis)				Commercial road vehicles			
	No. of weeks	For home market	For export	Totals	Weekly average	For home market	For export	Totals	Weekly average
1967	52	988,273	563,740	1,552,013	29,846	245,692	139,414	385,106	7,406
1968	52	1,013,163	802,773	1,815,936	34,922	259,331	149,855	409,186	7,869
1969	53	892,758	824,315	1,717,073	32,398	272,998	192,778	465,776	8,788
1970	52	918,109	722,857	1,640,966	31,557	267,407	190,125	457,532	8,799
1971	52	1,027,462	714,478	1,741,940	33,499	268,278	187,928	456,206	8,773
1972	52	1,307,881	613,430	1,921,311	36,948	272,649	135,470	408,119	7,848
1973	52	1,142,216	605,105	1,747,321	33,602	257,574	159,049	416,623	8,012
1974	52	937,932	596,187	1,534,119	29,502	232,373	170,193	402,566	7,742
1975	52								
1974 1st quarter	13	237,232	150,688	387,920	29,840	52,641	36,845	89,486	6,884
2nd quarter	13	275,355	164,041	439,396	33,800	63,122	46,063	109,185	8,399
3rd quarter	13	185,497	121,121	306,618	23,586	50,233	39,800	90,033	6,926
4th quarter	13	239,848	160,337	400,185	30,783	66,377	47,485	113,862	8,759
1975 1st quarter	13	242,571	139,736	382,307	29,408	61,402	46,808	108,210	8,324
2nd quarter	13	145,107	142,664	287,771	22,136	49,650	48,435	98,085	7,545
3rd quarter	13								
4th quarter	13								
1974 January	4	61,781	37,628	99,409	24,852	13,989	9,595	23,584	5,896
February	4	73,721	50,721	124,442	31,110	16,048	11,428	27,476	6,869
March	5	101,730	62,339	164,069	32,814	22,604	15,822	38,426	7,685
April	4	74,411	40,917	115,328	28,832	18,881	12,913	31,794	7,948
May	4	99,873	58,240	158,113	39,528	20,614	15,513	36,127	9,032
June	5	101,071	64,884	165,955	33,191	23,627	17,637	41,264	8,253
July	4	56,304	37,405	93,709	23,427	14,978	12,841	27,819	6,955
August	4	66,368	46,662	113,030	28,258	14,701	10,495	25,196	6,299
September	5	62,825	37,054	99,879	19,976	20,554	16,464	37,018	7,404
October	4	73,584	49,228	122,812	30,703	20,846	14,332	35,178	8,794
November	4	84,742	55,632	140,374	35,094	22,364	16,125	38,489	9,622
December	5	81,522	55,477	136,999	27,400	23,167	17,028	40,195	8,039
1975 January	4	79,301	46,278	125,579	31,395	19,997	14,429	34,426	8,606
February	4	84,826	43,032	127,858	31,964	19,669	15,619	35,288	8,822
March	5	78,444	50,426	128,870	25,774	21,736	16,760	38,496	7,699
April	4	57,260	48,895	106,155	26,539	16,866	14,418	31,284	7,821
May	4	35,750	36,423	72,173	18,043	15,879	16,070	31,949	7,987
June	5	52,097	57,346	109,443	21,888	16,905	17,947	34,852	6,970
July	4								
August	4								
September	5								
October	4								
November	4								
December	5								

TABLE 2 Production – seasonally adjusted

The seasonally adjusted series has been adjusted to exclude the effect of regularly recurring influences (eg holidays) but the figures still reflect the effect of factors that do not recur regularly (eg strikes).

Care should be taken not to interpret changes between one month and another as necessarily indicating the underlying trend. The averages in the latest three months and in the previous three months give a more reliable guide to recent changes.

MONTHLY AVERAGE — Thousands

	Passenger cars			Commercial vehicles		
	For home market	For export	Total	For home market	For export	Total
1967	82	47	129	20.5	11.6	32.1
1968	84	67	151	21.6	12.5	34.1
1969	74	69	143	22.7	16.1	38.8
1970	77	60	137	22.3	15.8	38.1
1971	86	59	145	22.3	14.7	38.0
1972	109	51	160	22.7	11.3	34.0
1973	95	50	145	21.5	13.2	34.7
1974	78	50	128	19.3	14.2	33.5
1975						
1974 1st quarter	69	42	111	16.6	11.7	28.3
2nd quarter	85	47	132	19.6	14.2	33.8
3rd quarter	83	55	138	21.3	16.2	37.5
4th quarter	76	54	130	19.9	14.7	34.6
1975 1st quarter	76	43	119	20.1	15.5	35.6
2nd quarter	46	43	89	15.8	15.0	30.8
3rd quarter						
4th quarter						
1974 January	56	44	100	15.2	12.3	27.5
February	70	36	106	16.2	11.0	27.2
March	80	46	126	18.5	11.7	30.2
April	79	32	111	19.9	13.8	33.7
May	93	56	149	21.3	14.5	35.8
June	81	55	136	17.7	14.2	31.9
July	97	66	163	22.0	16.7	38.7
August	88	61	149	22.1	16.8	38.9
September	64	37	101	19.8	15.1	34.9
October	72	49	121	18.8	14.0	32.8
November	82	60	142	20.1	15.3	35.4
December	75	53	128	20.8	14.8	35.6
1975 January	78	53	131	21.7	17.4	39.1
February	85	36	121	20.2	15.8	36.0
March	65	40	105	18.4	13.4	31.8
April	61	46	107	17.4	15.2	32.6
May	34	36	70	16.5	15.3	31.8
June	43	48	91	13.6	14.6	28.2
July						
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						
Average of:						
Jan.-Mar. 1975	76	43	119	20.1	15.5	35.6
Apr.-June 1975	46	43	89	15.8	15.0	30.8
Percentage change	−40	+1	−25	−21	−3	−13

Manufacturers' stocks in May

It is provisionally estimated that manufacturers' stocks rose by about £20 million at 1970 prices, seasonally adjusted, in May. There was probably a small reduction in stocks of materials and fuel but this was outweighed by increases in work in progress and stocks of finished goods.

Figures from January 1975 are:

	£ million, 1970 prices, seasonally adjusted
January	+10
February	+30
March	No change
April	+10
May	+20

(**Note:** As they are rounded to the nearest £10 million monthly figures will not usually add to quarterly totals.)

Retail sales in Northern Ireland in May

The seasonally adjusted index of retail sales in Northern Ireland in May was 212 (1965 = 100), 34 per cent more than in May 1974.

After allowing for price changes, the total volume of sales in May showed an increase of 8 per cent compared with the corresponding period last year.

The seasonally adjusted index numbers of the value of sales in May and percentage increases on a year earlier for the main groups of traders are shown in the table. More detailed information can be obtained from the Department of Commerce, Index of Retail Sales, 21 Linenhall Street, Belfast BT2 8BZ (tel. Belfast (0232) 28081, ext. 140).

		May 1975	
Sales by	Sales in 1965 – £m	Seasonally adjusted value index numbers 1965 = 100	Percentage increases
All kinds of business	219	212	34
Food shops	97	230	22
Non-food shops	122	198	50
Of which:			
Clothing and footwear shops	36	198	74
Durable goods shops	21	203	59
Miscellaneous non-food shops	43	221	30
Department and general stores	22	154	57

Registrations of British, Community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 25 July 1975.

BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
The Return Of The Pink Panther	BR/E 38192/26/7/80	112	21 July	United Artists Corporation Ltd.	Jewel Productions Ltd. and Pimlico Films Ltd.
Hennessy	BR/E 38194/26/7/80	104	22 July	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Hennessy Film Productions Ltd.
Movietone News 2407	BR/E 38122/26/7/80	8	25 July	British Movietonews Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
			FOREIGN		
Trap On Cougar Mountain	F 38193	75	22 July	Eagle Films Ltd.	Keith Larsen Productions, California
The Happy Hooker	F 38195	96	25 July	Scotia-Barber Distributors Ltd.	Cannon-Happy Distribution Co. Inc.

Insolvencies in England and Wales during the second quarter of 1975

After allowing for seasonal variation, bankruptcies, which relate to insolvent individuals and which had risen continuously since the middle of 1973, fell slightly during the second quarter of 1975 from the peak level reached in the first quarter. Company liquidations, which had also increased continuously since mid-1973, continued to rise.

Table 1 shows that, after seasonal adjustment, there were about 1,780 receiving orders made during bankruptcy proceedings in the second quarter of 1975 (including administration orders and deeds of arrangement). This represents a fall of about 5 per cent compared with the previous quarter but, except for the previous quarter, is the highest since at least the beginning of 1960 and is about 36 per cent higher than in the second quarter of 1974. Before seasonal adjustment, the figure was 1,816.

Table 1 also shows that, after seasonal adjustment, there were about 1,330 company liquidations in the second quarter of 1975, made up of about 600 compulsory and about 730 creditors' voluntary liquidations, in both cases the highest since at least the beginning of 1960. The total is about 9 per cent more than in the previous quarter and about 57 per cent more than in the second quarter of 1974. Before seasonal adjustment, there were 1,327 company liquidations, made up of 601 compulsory and 726 creditors' voluntary liquidations.

The chart illustrates the quarterly, seasonally adjusted figures for receiving orders (including administration orders and deeds of arrangement) and company liquidations since the beginning of 1968. Both categories of insolvency moved broadly together during this period. As the chart shows, there was a general fall in the number of insolvencies from mid-1970 to mid-1973 followed by a sharp rise.

Industrial analysis

Table 2 gives the industrial analysis of receiving orders administered (including administration orders and deeds of arrangement) up to the first quarter of 1975. This table excludes orders which were rescinded before the business of the debtor could be investigated; the quarterly totals therefore do not agree with those of Table 1, which are for all receiving orders, administration orders and deeds of arrangement made during the quarter.

Table 2 shows that the percentage of receiving orders administered which was accounted for by self-employed persons rose in the first quarter of 1975 compared with the previous quarter after falling steadily during 1974. Within the self-employed, the largest increase came in construction, which accounted for 23.9 per cent of the total for the first quarter compared with 15.6 per cent in the previous quarter and 19.4 per cent during 1974 as a whole. The percentage in non-food retailing fell by 4 percentage points in the first quarter compared with the previous quarter and the percentage in financial and professional services increased by 2.5 percentage points. Changes among the other self-employed categories were relatively small, mostly less than 1 per cent of the total. Among other individuals (ie those not self-employed) the percentages of the total accounted for by employees, no occupation and unemployed and by directors and promoters of companies both fell quite sharply but the percentage with occupation unknown increased considerably, making interpretation of the relatively small identified changes mentioned above rather uncertain.

Table 3, which gives the industrial analysis of liquidations, shows that there were no large changes in the first quarter of 1975. Liquidations of manufacturing companies remained steady at just under one-

TABLE 1 Insolvencies

England and Wales — Number

	Bankruptcies					Company liquidations					
	Unadjusted				Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted			Seasonally adjusted		
	Total	Receiving orders	Administration orders	Deeds of arrangement	Total	Total	Compulsory	Creditors' voluntary	Total	Compulsory	Creditors' voluntary
1968	4,298	4,123	27	148		3,165	1,108	2,057			
1969	4,772	4,532	20	220		3,510	1,181	2,329			
1970	5,087	4,878	29	180		3,689	1,269	2,420			
1971	4,793	4,630	13	150		3,506	1,166	2,340			
1972	4,337	4,225	19	93		3,063	1,150	1,913			
1973	3,917	3,805	12	100		2,575	1,080	1,495			
1974	5,716	5,594	12	110		3,720	1,395	2,325			
1968 1st quarter	1,231	1,190		41	1,121	897	307	590	850	287	563
2nd quarter	1,024	985		39	1,040	775	279	496	772	271	501
3rd quarter	932	907		25	1,020	586	148	438	731	270	461
4th quarter	1,111	1,068		43	1,117	907	374	533	812	280	532
1969 1st quarter	1,231	1,173		58	1,135	872	318	554	824	296	528
2nd quarter	1,059	1,055		40	1,094	871	308	563	864	298	566
3rd quarter	1,215	1,157		58	1,319	798	171	627	957	305	652
4th quarter	1,231	1,167		64	1,224	969	384	585	865	282	583
1970 1st quarter	1,314	1,273		41	1,236	981	318	663	942	305	637
2nd quarter	1,321	1,280		41	1,308	966	339	627	971	335	636
3rd quarter	1,219	1,174		45	1,324	744	169	575	893	303	590
4th quarter	1,233	1,180		53	1,219	998	443	555	883	326	557
1971 1st quarter	1,171	1,145		26	1,116	760	310	450	731	299	432
2nd quarter	1,253	1,205		48	1,230	945	285	660	945	280	665
3rd quarter	1,137	1,092		45	1,238	777	172	605	920	302	618
4th quarter	1,232	1,201		31	1,209	1,024	399	625	910	285	625
1972 1st quarter	1,222	1,197		25	1,180	877	291	586	856	288	568
2nd quarter	1,200	1,175		25	1,177	799	293	506	804	293	511
3rd quarter	866	844		22	950	614	160	454	746	280	466
4th quarter	1,049	1,028		21	1,030	773	406	367	657	289	368
1973 1st quarter	1,011	982		29	973	710	273	437	700	275	425
2nd quarter	952	919		33	931	653	308	345	660	312	348
3rd quarter	875	858		17	961	463	130	333	574	230	344
4th quarter	1,079	1,058		21	1,052	749	369	380	641	263	378
1974 1st quarter	1,320	1,294		26	1,267	713	264	449	701	266	435
2nd quarter	1,341	1,314		27	1,307	844	309	535	849	312	537
3rd quarter	1,377	1,355		22	1,515	829	224	605	1,018	394	624
4th quarter	1,678	1,643		35	1,627	1,334	598	736	1,152	423	729
1975 1st quarter	1,938	1,900		38	1,862	1,240	540	700	1,222	541	681
2nd quarter	1,816	1,783		33	1,775	1,327	601	726	1,333	603	730

TABLE 2 Industrial analysis of receiving orders administered[1]

England and Wales

Industry	Numbers							Percentages						
			1974				1975			1974				1975
	1973	1974	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	1973	1974	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.
Self-employed														
Agriculture	71	93	17	17	20	39	34	2.0	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.7	2.2	2.0
Manufacturing:														
Food, drink and tobacco	4	4	1	—	—	3	—	0.1	0.1	0.1	—	—	0.2	—
Chemicals	1	11	1	—	10	—	—	—	0.2	0.1	—	0.9	—	—
Metals and engineering	59	44	22	4	10	8	9	1.7	0.8	1.9	0.3	0.9	0.4	0.5
Textiles and clothing	26	41	7	6	16	12	5	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.5	1.4	0.7	0.3
Timber and furniture	19	24	7	10	3	4	9	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.5
Paper, printing and publishing	15	16	2	7	—	7	2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.6	—	0.4	0.1
Other manufacturing	12	12	2	4	—	6	5	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	—	0.3	0.3
Total manufacturing	136	152	42	31	39	40	30	3.9	2.9	3.7	2.5	3.4	2.2	1.7
Construction	741	1,031	238	276	236	281	416	21.3	19.4	20.7	22.5	20.5	15.6	23.9
Road haulage	112	343	98	57	59	129	109	3.2	6.4	8.5	4.6	5.1	7.2	6.3
Wholesaling:														
Consumer goods	60	42	24	10	7	1	13	1.7	0.8	2.1	0.8	0.6	0.1	0.7
Non-consumer goods	83	55	22	8	7	18	21	2.4	1.0	1.9	0.7	0.6	1.0	1.2
Retailing:														
Food	247	344	71	82	77	114	91	7.1	6.5	6.2	6.7	6.7	6.3	5.2
Non-food	396	567	92	119	117	239	162	11.4	10.7	8.0	9.7	10.2	13.3	9.3
Financial and professional services	158	229	59	79	70	21	64	4.5	4.3	5.1	6.4	6.1	1.2	3.7
Hotels and restaurants	157	210	47	50	37	76	56	4.5	3.9	4.1	4.1	3.2	4.2	3.2
Garages	186	198	61	37	33	67	60	5.4	3.7	5.3	3.0	2.9	3.7	3.4
Other consumer services	162	192	82	41	48	21	41	4.7	3.6	7.1	3.3	4.2	1.2	2.4
Other industries	46	34	13	3	7	11	18	1.3	0.6	1.1	0.2	0.6	0.6	1.0
Total	2,555	3,490	866	810	757	1,057	1,115	73.5	65.6	75.5	66.0	65.9	58.8	64.0
Other individuals														
Employees, no occupation and unemployed	684	1,389	174	310	299	606	426	19.7	26.1	15.2	25.3	26.0	33.7	24.5
Directors and promoters of companies	193	239	35	43	33	128	76	5.6	4.5	3.1	3.5	2.9	7.1	4.4
Occupation unknown	43	203	72	64	60	7	124	1.2	3.8	6.3	5.2	5.2	0.4	7.1
Total	920	1,831	281	417	392	741	626	26.5	34.4	24.5	34.0	34.1	41.2	36.0
All receiving orders administered	3,475	5,321	1,147	1,227	1,149	1,798	1,741	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note

(1) Receiving orders made during the year, *less* those rescinded before the end of the year, together with administration orders and deeds of arrangement on the same basis. The totals for all receiving orders administered are thus not equal to the totals shown in Table 1. The construction of the quarterly figures is explained in the notes at the end of the article.

quarter of the total and liquidations of construction companies at just under one-fifth. The small increase in the percentage accounted for by wholesaling of non-consumer goods was largely offset by a fall in the percentage accounted for by wholesaling of consumer goods. The percentage accounted for by the category financial and professional services, which includes property companies, increased slightly to nearly 18 per cent. The percentage in this category has been generally rising since early 1973.

High Court and County Court figures

The figures for receiving and administration orders and compulsory liquidation winding-up orders made in the High Court and County Courts during the second quarter of 1975 and the four preceding quarters are as follows:

	1974			1975	
	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.
Receiving and administration orders					
High Court	297	227	442	458	445
County Courts	1,017	1,128	1,201	1,442	1,338
Total	1,314	1,355	1,643	1,900	1,783
Compulsory liquidation winding-up orders					
High Court	234	150	515	446	494
County Courts	75	74	83	94	107
Total	309	224	598	540	601

Notes

An article describing these statistics and giving quarterly figures from the beginning of 1960 to the end of 1974 (with industrial analyses from the beginning of 1969 to the third quarter of 1974) was published in *Economic Trends* for March 1975.

The figures for bankruptcies in Table 1 refer to persons, who are dealt with under the Bankruptcy Act 1914 and the Bankruptcy (Amendment) Act 1926 or who make arrangements with their creditors under the Deeds of Arrangement Act 1914. A receiving order is made by the court on the petition of a creditor if it is satisfied that the debtor has committed an act of bankruptcy, as listed in Section 1 of the Bankruptcy Act 1914, or on the petition of the debtor himself. The order makes the official receiver, who is an officer of the court, receiver of the debtor's estate and deprives the debtor of the right to deal with it. Administration orders, which are made under Section 130 of the Bankruptcy Act 1914, relate to deceased insolvents. Deeds of arrangement relate to arrangements between debtors and creditors that are reached, without recourse to the courts, under the Deeds of Arrangement Act 1914.

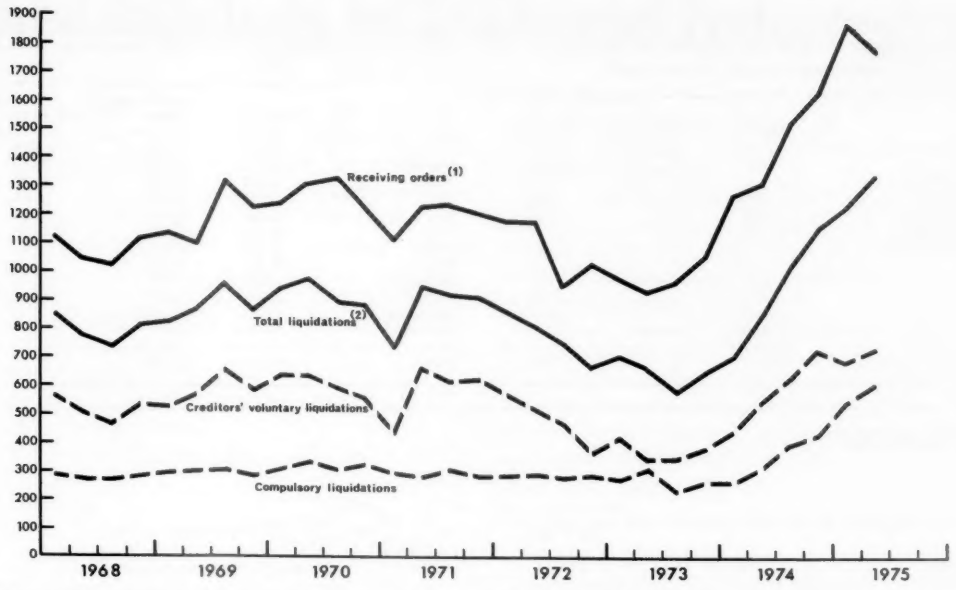
Insolvent partnerships are dealt with in conjunction with the insolvencies of the individual partners under the Bankruptcy Acts.

Receiving orders administered, referred to in Table 2, are those receiving orders not rescinded before the end of the year. For the first three quarters of the year the industrial analysis in Table 2 is compiled about two months after the end of the quarter, to allow time for the statistics to be collected. Some of these receiving orders may later be rescinded. The analysis for the fourth quarter is obtained by subtracting the figures for the first three quarters from the figures for the full year. This results in the figures for the fourth quarter being understated compared with the other quarters, but the anomaly is probably not serious when the analysis is viewed in percentage terms.

Insolvent companies are dealt with under the Companies Acts 1948 and 1967 and the figures for company liquidations in Table 1 refer to the two types of liquidation that involve insolvency. The figures for compulsory liquidations relate to winding-up orders made by the courts. The figures for creditors' voluntary liquidations, in which the company and its creditors come to terms without court proceedings, relate to notifications of resolutions to wind-up. There

Insolvencies in England and Wales

Number per quarter, seasonally adjusted



(1) Including administration orders and deeds of arrangement. (2) Compulsory plus creditors' voluntary liquidations.

is a third type, members' voluntary liquidations; these do not involve insolvency and they are not included in the figures in this article.

There is considerable seasonal variation between quarters in the insolvency series, mainly because about 25 per cent of all receiving orders and about 80 per cent of all compulsory liquidations are dealt with by the High Court, which has fewer sittings in the third quarter compared with other quarters because of the long vacation. For receiving orders, the seasonal fall in the third quarter is made up in each of the other quarters approximately equally. Compulsory liquidations are more strongly seasonal, with a large fall in the third quarter followed by a large rise in the fourth. Creditors' voluntary liquidations are not particularly seasonal but seasonally adjusted figures for them are included in Table 1.

Questions are often asked about the distribution of insolvencies by size or by region but it would be impracticable or very costly to assemble statistics of this sort. There is no satisfactory measure of the size of an insolvency because a business tends to decline over a period and there are the problems of deciding for what time the size should be assessed and what measure should be used, and of obtaining this information retrospectively. For regional statistics, figures for cases decided in the various county courts are an unsatisfactory basis because of the large proportion of cases decided in the High Court. There is also the difficulty that the activities of a business often extend over a wide area.

TABLE 3 Industrial analysis of total compulsory and creditors' voluntary liquidations

England and Wales

	Numbers							Percentages						
			1974				1975			1974				1975
Industry	1973	1974	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	1973	1974	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.
Agriculture	9	16	4	3	3	6	6	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5
Manufacturing:														
Food, drink and tobacco	35	62	10	16	19	17	20	1.4	1.7	1.4	1.9	2.3	1.3	1.6
Chemicals	22	33	4	8	10	11	11	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.9	1.2	0.8	0.9
Metals and engineering	253	323	72	66	86	99	90	9.8	8.7	10.1	7.8	10.4	7.4	7.3
Textiles and clothing	124	171	32	34	51	54	37	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.0	6.2	4.0	3.0
Timber and furniture	61	124	26	23	33	42	35	2.4	3.3	3.6	2.7	4.0	3.1	2.8
Paper, printing and publishing	116	124	16	22	32	54	47	4.5	3.3	2.2	2.6	3.9	4.0	3.8
Other manufacturing	111	109	27	23	17	42	48	4.3	2.9	3.8	2.7	2.1	3.1	3.9
Total manufacturing	722	946	187	192	248	319	288	28.0	25.4	26.2	22.7	29.9	23.9	23.2
Construction	500	776	161	184	162	269	240	19.4	20.9	22.6	21.8	19.5	20.2	19.4
Road haulage	139	213	43	44	53	73	71	5.4	5.7	6.0	5.2	6.4	5.5	5.7
Wholesaling:														
Consumer goods	114	130	23	28	23	56	37	4.4	3.5	3.2	3.3	2.8	4.2	3.0
Non-consumer goods	119	191	29	48	40	74	95	4.6	5.1	4.1	5.7	4.8	5.5	7.7
Retailing:														
Food	76	81	23	21	13	24	23	3.0	2.2	3.2	2.5	1.6	1.8	1.9
Non-food	233	270	55	64	59	93	103	9.0	7.3	7.7	7.6	7.1	7.0	8.3
Financial and professional services	354	612	106	146	146	214	219	13.7	16.5	14.9	17.3	17.6	16.0	17.7
Hotels and restaurants	55	136	17	37	24	57	33	2.1	3.7	2.4	4.4	2.9	4.3	2.7
Garages	55	74	21	17	11	25	26	2.1	2.0	2.9	2.0	1.3	1.9	2.1
Other consumer services	75	81	12	14	14	41	28	2.9	2.2	1.7	1.7	1.7	3.1	2.3
Other industries	124	194	32	46	33	83	71	4.8	5.2	4.5	5.5	4.0	6.2	5.7
Total	2,575	3,720	713	844	829	1,334	1,240	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

New companies registered

Below are details of new companies registered in Great Britain during June 1975 showing nominal capital. The figures are exclusive of unlimited companies and companies limited by guarantee.

Nominal capital	Total	Public companies	Private companies
Not exceeding £100	2,099	—	2,099
Over £100 but under £1,000	57	—	57
£1,000 but under £10,000	889	—	889
£10,000 but under £50,000	333	—	333
£50,000 but under £100,000	48	—	48
£100,000 but under £1,000,000	37	—	37
£1,000,000 and over	5	—	5
Total number	3,468	—	3,468
	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.
Total amount of nominal capital	20,856	—	20,856

Companies registered in Great Britain in 1974 and 1975

	1974		1975	
	Number	Nominal capital £ thous.	Number	Nominal capital £ thous.
January	4,758	27,824	3,648	18,631
February	2,870	81,582	3,442	22,886
March	3,393	21,763	3,440	28,511
April	3,679	50,557	4,944	24,352
May	3,878	36,111	4,248	42,314
June	3,329	29,037	3,468	20,856
July	3,730	32,961		
August	3,274	37,822		
September	3,214	36,037		
October	3,481	25,421		
November	3,115	36,422		
December	3,039	21,298		
Total	41,760	436,835		

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A = annually M = monthly Q = quarterly 6M = every six months.

Title	Last published
Air transport: trade by air (6M)	16 May 1975
Balance of payments:	
current account (M)	18 July 1975
trends in invisible transactions (Q)	24 Oct. 1974
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Bankruptcies *see* Insolvencies	
Business names and limited partnerships (A)	30 Jan. 1975
Capital expenditure: manufacturing, distributive and service industries (Q)	11 July 1975
Catering trades turnover (M)	18 July 1975
Census of production (A)	19 Dec. 1974
(amendment)	16 Jan. 1975
Chemicals industry activity (Q)	13 June 1975
Companies:	
acquisitions and mergers (Q)	9 May 1975
insolvencies (Q)	This week
liquidity (Q)	13 June 1975
new registrations:	
Gt. Britain (M)	This week
N. Ireland (M)	13 June 1975
Construction work overseas (A)	17 Oct. 1974
EEC economic indicators	This week
Energy trends (M)	4 July 1975
Engineering industries: sales and orders (M)	25 July 1975
Film industry	
British Film Fund Agency returns (M)	11 July 1975
cinema admissions and takings (M)	11 July 1975
overseas payments and earnings (A)	1 Aug. 1974
registrations of films (A)	6 Feb. 1975
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consumption levels (6M)	2 May 1975
household consumption (Q)	4 July 1975
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Foreign trade: industrial countries' production and trade (Q)	18 Apr. 1975
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Hire-purchase business (M)	11 July 1975
Industrial production:	
index numbers (M)	27 June 1975
N. Ireland index (M)	25 July 1975
Insolvencies in England and Wales (Q)	This week
Insurance companies: investments and assets (A)	5 Sept. 1974
Investment:	
book values of overseas direct investments (every 3 years)	15 Nov. 1973
industry's investment intentions (3 times a year)	13 June 1975
investment and earnings overseas (A)	14 Mar. 1975
(amendment)	21 Mar. 1975
Machine tools: sales and orders (M)	25 July 1975
Man-made fibres:	
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car and commercial vehicle production (M)	This week
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Tourism:	
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Wholesale prices:	
average prices of selected commodities (A)	13 June 1975
index numbers (M)	25 July 1975

Departmental organisations, etc.

Subjects	Last published
British commercial representations overseas	4 Apr. 1975
Business Monitor titles	6 Sept. 1973
Customs notices of interest to exporters	20 June 1975
ECGD local offices	This week
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9 August 1975 Household Furniture

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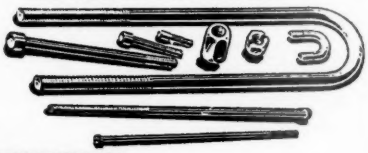

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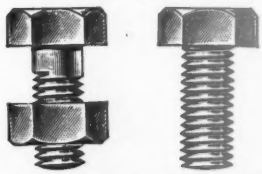

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East Midland: To be appointed, Cranbrook House, Cranbrook Street, Nottingham NG1 1EW (Tel: 46121 – Telex 37572).

Eastern: Mr A. A. McLoughlin, Block D, Government Buildings, Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge CB2 2DF (Tel: 58911 – Telex 81187).

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* National companies in central London, and particularly those with UK subsidiaries or branches, which require overseas publicity should consult Industrial Section at COI Headquarters: Mr E. Turnbull, Central Office of Information, Hercules Road, London SE1 7DU (Tel: 01-938 2345 ext. 271 – Telex 915444).

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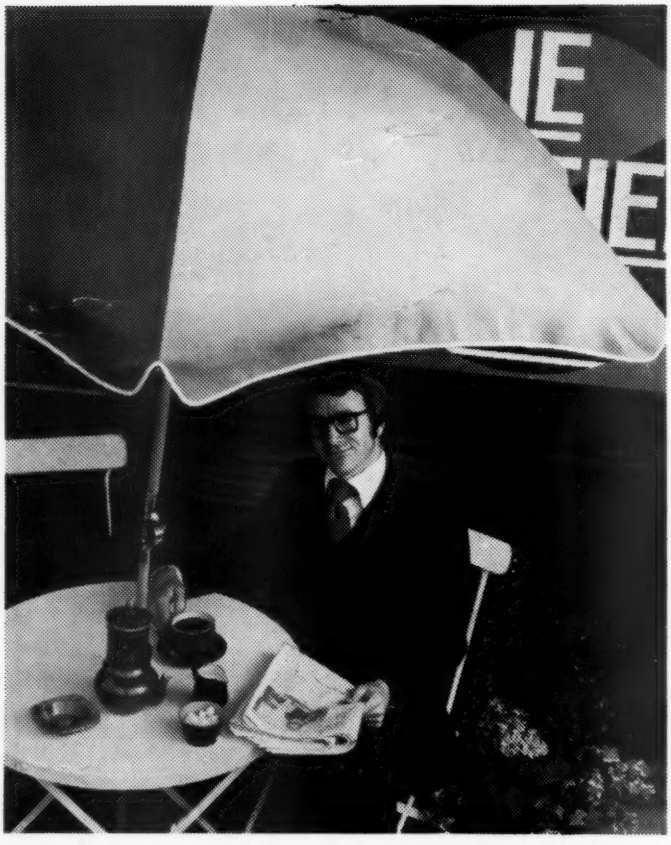

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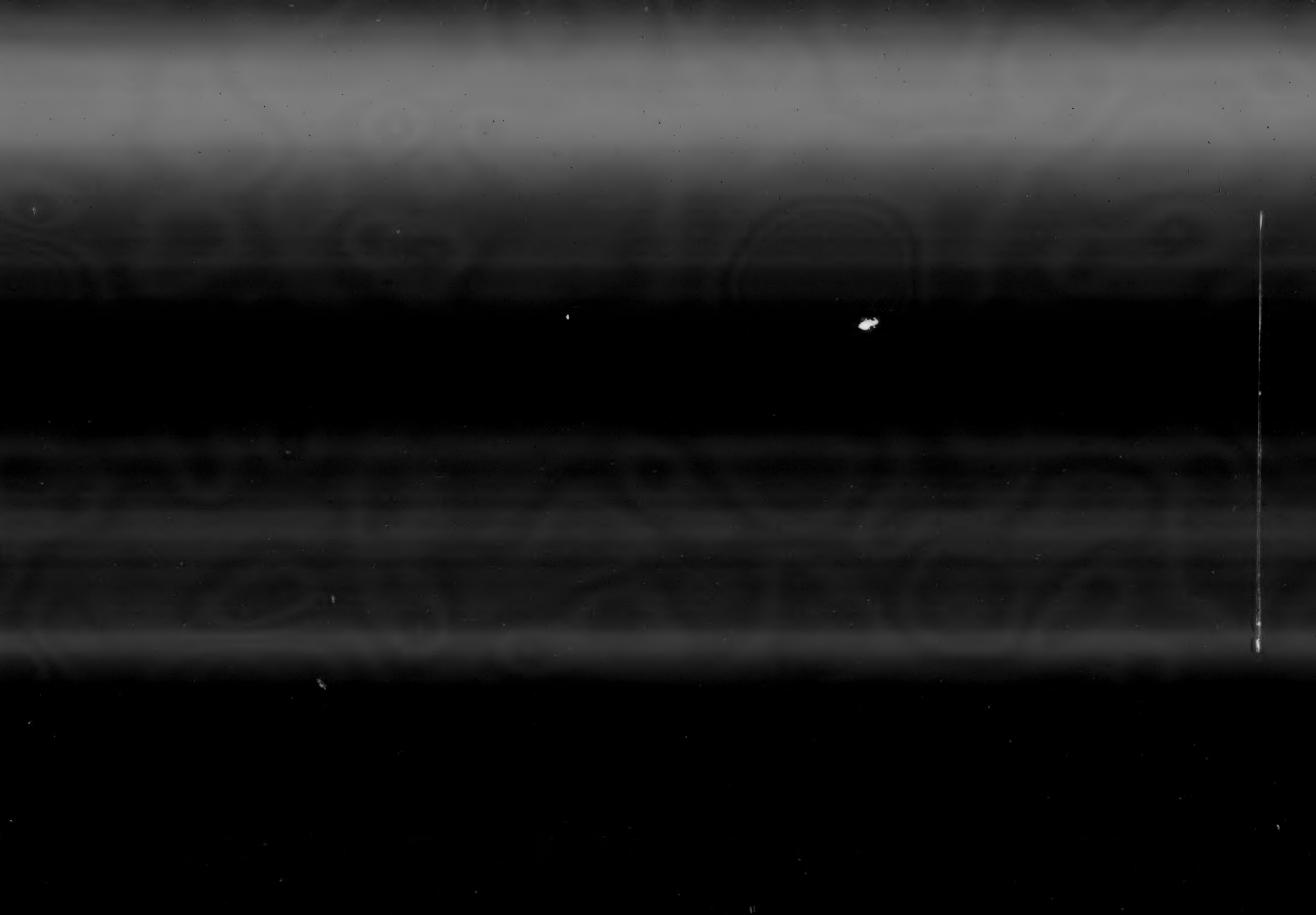
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